3rd March 2014

Here is another quick newsletter full of congratulations this week. Enjoy reading about your achievements and well done everyone!

Congratulations to all members of the Bargo Swimming team and their parents for surviving two wet days last week at Picton swimming pool participating in Razorback Swimming Carnival. It was an absolute delight to hear about your achievements from Mr Hockett and Mr Kellaway. You should be very pleased with your achievements! More about these achievements in ‘Sporting Male’ – see Mr Kellaway’s report.

Thank you to the many mums and dads who read the newsletter and who follow our requests. Your positive attitude to our requests helps to make our school to be a pleasant place to learn, play and work. Thank you for your commitment to encouraging your children to:

♦ play under the COLA, and/or on the netball court before the morning bell;
♦ line up under the COLA (Kinder students) and outside classroom (Y1 –6);
♦ ensuring that everyone is wearing their own school cap;
♦ collecting all children from school at 3.20pm.

Thank you to all teaching staff for your commitment with regard to the challenge of learning about and implementing two new Australian syllabi, English and Mathematics. The work you are doing behind the scenes of your classrooms has been amazing. Thank you for helping our students to be the smartest that they can be through your creation of stimulating learning opportunities and stimulating learning environments. There is a wonderful vibe in the school from the students learning about mini-beasts, dinosaurs, pets, flight, bushrangers, mathematical concepts, LIPI and so much more.

CONGRATULATIONS to all students for their good behaviour last week! It takes a lot of energy to be good, especially seeing it has been so wet, meaning that you can only play inside or on hard surfaces.

Remember mums and dads to complete your year 6 child’s High School application form for 2014. All paperwork must be completed and returned as soon as possible to the silver tin.

Parents are an important part of our school so on behalf of the P & C committee I would like to invite all parents to think about joining this hard working team starting Wednesday night at our AGM, where you can become part of the team while enjoying a coffee, a freshly baked scone or muffin or two (and a giggle).

All of the following positions will be vacated and will need to be filled at our AGM:

♦ President;
♦ Vice President;
♦ Treasurer;
♦ Secretary;
♦ Disco committee and
♦ Fund Raising committee.

On behalf of staff and students, I would like to invite all parents and family members to our first K-6 Assembly on Friday 7 March. This assembly will be held in our school hall and will commence at 2.20 pm. Please meet us there, seating will be set out and waiting for you. Please leave your prams in the pram corral at the rear of the seating or take a seat in the back row.

Please chat with your children on a daily basis for notes relating to information about meetings, curriculum, excursions, school events, sport, welfare issues or celebrations of success! Enjoy the term ahead, aim to learn something new every day and be as active as you can be in our school!

Anne Bunga
Principal
Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC)
Once again we are encouraging all students to enter the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC). The process is simple. Students from Kindergarten to year 2 will read the 40 PRC books in class during fruit break. Class teachers will record the information on the PRC sheet.

Students from Year 3 to 6 are required to read any 40 PRC books from a list of over 5000 books. Mrs Compton will show each student how to enter their list of ‘read’ books onto the website and entering can be done from home.

PRC books are kept in the school library on the shelves marked PRC. Picton library also has a collection of books clearly marked in their library which children can borrow and read. Students are able to borrow Premier’s Reading Challenge books during library lessons. All students who complete the program will receive a Premier’s Reading Challenge certificate, with many of our students working towards a gold award. Student names are also printed in the Daily Telegraph on the 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge Honour Roll.

Mum and Dad (MAD) Reading Program
Teachers are currently handing out the MAD reading log cards. Children simply read to their parents, with their parents or hear their parents read either before school or after school. Parents sign the MAD reading log each day reading takes place. Students submit their MAD reading log to their teacher as part of the class homework policy. Teachers then issue a MAD reading token which is used to in a lucky book draw each week. Winners from the draw receive a book. Happy reading everyone! As an extension to our King and Queen Program, we will also crown a King and Queen of Reading at our K-6 assemblies.

MAD (single night of reading should be recorded on the log card) and PRC (simply register the completed book on PRC site) can be worked together.

Reading With Children at Home
Reading with children is fun and one of the best ways to help prepare them for school. Children learn about the value and importance of reading as they watch their family reading and writing in everyday life.

Whether reading a novel, sharing a story, using a recipe, making a shopping list, writing a birthday card or reading a street sign, children observe the value of reading and writing.

What you can do at home:

◆ Be yourself and involve your child in everyday conversations from an early age.
◆ Read aloud to your child. It will help your child to learn the language of books and encourages the enjoyment of books and reading.
◆ Talk about books together - make reading a shared, enjoyable activity.
◆ See that there is a range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction.
◆ Read to your child in your first language - research shows that using your first language will help your child when he or she learns to read English.
◆ Try not to let television intrude on reading time - set aside some uninterrupted time to read with your child.
◆ Listen to your child read every day, even if only for a short time.
◆ Give books as treats and presents.
◆ Discuss the meanings of stories and words.
◆ Join your local library and borrow books for yourself as well as your child.
Enviro Club, paperless lunches and the canteen
Students from every grade are spending their play time during afternoon tea working on many different aspects of the enviro club’s objectives for this year. These objectives include: recycling paper, tins and waste from the classroom and leftovers from student lunch boxes.

Student leaders with their team of helpers are responsible for one or more of the following tasks:

- feeding, grooming and charming the eggs from our chickens as well as cleaning out their chicken house each and every day;
- conducting a light audit; here the team is working hard to guide fellow students and teachers about ways of conserving electricity;
- green thumbs are busy working in the garden beds, weeding, planting, trimming, harvesting and watering;
- recycling lunch and recess leftover for the chickens or the worm farms or the compost heap;
- recycling team is looking at ways to recycle paper and tin.

We have a buzz in the air, which has reached Anna in the canteen. Check out her display in the canteen for her re-use lunch wallets. All orders go through the canteen. The wallet has a display window for the child’s name and class and another window with zipper for the lunch order and the money. The lunch wallet comes with free downloads for name tags and canteen orders.

Dogs in Schools
A number of Bargo students have been bitten by dogs out of school of school hours and have horrible scars both physical and mental. As a result, students undertake a program of dog safety lessons while enrolled in kinder, Year 1 and 2. We also ask that you remain outside the school fence if you have a dog with you, when either dropping off your children in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon. I understand totally that you have your dog(s) on a lead(s) and that you are taking an opportunity to walk them, however, the Department of Education and Community has a rule which states ‘No dogs are allowed on school premises’.

Lost Property
Kids are kids and they regularly leave their belongings scattered all over the place. Even though teachers ask the question ‘Does this belong to anyone?’ and often repeat the comments ‘When you take your jumper off put it in your bag’ or ‘Please put your lunch box in your bag now’, items still get lost.

Help us to help you! by ensuring that everything your child brings to school is clearly labelled with the family name. Pre-loved items need to be relabelled with your family name. All items with names are returned. Those items with no form of identification are placed on the Lost Property rack in the canteen area.

Reserve this date on your calendar! Let your grandparents and grand friends know that this special day is on with a little twist. In the morning students will participate in the K-6 Cross Country Carnival. This carnival will be followed by our annual Easter Hat Parade. So start thinking about hats for both the children and yourself - come along in the spirit of the day!

Later in the year, during Seniors Week, we will hold another day for our grandparents and grand friends to celebrate learning, age and wisdom. Keep your eyes open for further details.

Banking
Each year parents volunteer to complete the school banking process. Thanks to the 2014 team of parent volunteers and student bankers who helped to raise just under $500 for our school this year. Well done everyone! You can open a Dollarmite account for any of your children from birth to 16 years of age. Dollarmite accounts earn a slightly higher rate of interest than a regular Commonwealth Bank Account.

So if you haven’t already opened an account and you would like to do so, please drop a note in the silver tin any Thursday and your child will receive paperwork for opening an account. Siblings can drop off and bring home Dollarmite accounts for students in High School and preschool students.

TOKENS
The bank has informed us that students can now redeem tokens. The way to redeem and keep count of tokens has changed. We have been provided a list of the students and how many tokens they have so far. This has been automatically generated by the bank. There may be some errors in this information so we need parents to either email us at commkidsbargoschool@hotmail.com, or pop a note in their bank book with the number tokens they think their child has.
To date we have had two parents do this and we don't want the student bankers to miss out on rewards. We would like to be able to contact the bank to fix any errors as soon as possible. We can only redeem rewards once the bank system tells us the students who have the 10 required tokens. If we do not get confirmation there may be some confusion as to why students are not receiving rewards if there has been an error in the computer generated token amounts.

Also any students who may have started at the school this year, but previously banked Commonwealth School banking elsewhere, can transfer their tokens over to our school. Parents just need to contact us and let us know how many tokens they have.

Also tokens cannot be shared, please ensure that when counting it applies per child. One token for every deposit.

Thanks
Tanya and Kirsty (banking mums)

**Easter Raffle**

Shortly every child will receive a booklet of 10 raffle tickets for the upcoming Easter Egg Raffle. The Easter Egg raffle will be drawn during the Hat Parade on April 11th. Please return all ticket stubs and money in a plastic zip lock bag or an envelope mark ‘Easter Egg raffle’. If you do not wish to purchase tickets please return them to school a.s.a.p. If you would like to help raise funds for the school drop a note for additional tickets and they will be forwarded to you.

The tickets are 50 cents each. Please make sure you record your name and phone number on each ticket you purchase so that we can contact you a.s.a.p. if you are a lucky winner. There are many wonderful prizes.

**Notes to be returned via the silver collection tin**

Please look for these notes which have been sent home and return as soon as possible, placing the correct money (if necessary) in the envelope and place it in the silver security tin at the rear of the administration block on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning.

- Emergency contact names and numbers for 2014 (all students)
- Permission to attend local excursions (all students)
- Permission to have access to technology, photos on the web (all students)
- Voluntary contributions note (all students)
- 2015 Kindergarten enrolments
- Special Swimming School (yrs 1 - 6)
- Yr 1 Dinosaur Excursion (1K and 1J only)
- Years 4, 5 and 6 Bush Camp 3days/2nights
- Wakakirri notes and payment

Notes are also available from the school’s website. JUST google Bargo Public School and open the calendar tab after reading the front page for the details of where to find the note.

**Cheques should be made out to Bargo Public School. EFTPOS is also available. Please refer to the note for details about making payments.**

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**NEW DANCE & DRAMA NOW ENROLLING FOR 2014!!**

* Jazz / Musical Theatre * HipHop / Urban
* Lyrical / Contemporary * Saturday Classes available
* Introducing - Tap, Beginner Jazz, Beginner Ballet

Come and meet our new teaching staff!!

From 4 years to adult we offer:

**Drama** – all facets of acting / being on and off stage.

**STADS Singers** – individual and group tuition.

**Dance / Choreography** – original movement and routines.

The Agency – With castings for The Great Gatsby.

The Sapphires, A Place to Call Home and more!

All classes have unique and individual opportunities created in a caring environment, with professional and experienced tuition.

* Class numbers are strictly limited!!! Picton & Tahmoor

Come in and join the fun today!!

For more information call Sarah on
0415 995 225 or 4683 0193

**www.s-t-a-d-s.com**

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Wollondilly Electrical Contracting & Sales provides a wide range of electrical services to South West Sydney, South Coast, Southern Highlands and surrounding areas. From new homes and oven repairs to commercial upgrades and specialist industrial projects—we have the expertise and experience to get your electrical job done, whatever it may be.

Call Shane or Mitchell on (02)4677 0101 or visit us at Unit 4, 15 Henry Street, Picton 2571, between 8.00am to 4.30pm to discuss your needs.
Upcoming Dates Term 1 - 2014

Watch this space in the newsletter and add and amend the dates as necessary.

**Week 6** - Lots of teaching and learning occurring, plus:
- **Wednesday 5th/Friday 7th March**  
  SSW Tennis championships
- **Wednesday 5th March**  
  P and C meeting 7.30 pm in the staff room
- **Friday 7th March**  
  Clean up Australia Day activities – watch for information in newsletter  
  2.20pm K-6 assembly - School fees draw 2013

**Week 7** - Lots of teaching and learning occurring, plus:
- **Wednesday 12th March**  
  Stage 1 excursion – Sydney Museum to view the Dinosaurs exhibition  
  (permission note required along with payment by 10/3/14)
- **Thursday 13th March**  
  Selective High School testing date for students completing Year 7 2015  
  Selective High School selection

**Week 8** - Lots of teaching and learning occurring, plus:
- **Monday 17th/Friday 28th March**  
  School Swimming scheme (permission note and payment required  
  By 14/3/14)
- **Tuesday 18/3**  
  South West Sydney PSSA swimming carnival (permission note required  
  along with sport levy)
- **Thursday 20th March**  
  Principal conference
- **Friday 21st March**  
  Principal conference  
  World Poetry Day and Autumn Equinox

**Week 9** - Lots of teaching and learning occurring, plus:
- **Mon 24th/Wed 26th March**  
  Campbelltown Performing Arts High School auditions for Year 7 2015  
  students
- **Wednesday 26th March**  
  Primary AFL trials
- **Thursday 27th March**  
  Free photography course (full)

**Week 10** - Lots of teaching and learning occurring, plus:
- **Wednesday 2nd April**  
  P and C meeting 7.30 pm in the staffroom
- **Thursday 3rd April**  
  Paul Kelly Cup @ Monash Oval
- **Friday 4th April**  
  2pm K-6 Assembly  
  PSSA Gala Day TBC

**Week 11** - Lots of teaching and learning occurring, plus:
- **Wednesday 9th April**  
  State PSSA Swimming Carnival at Homebush (permission note required  
  along with sport’s levee)  
  Primary AFL Development Day
- **Thursday 10th April**  
  9.30am ANZAC school based ceremony
- **Friday 11th April**  
  9.30am – 12 noon K-6 Cross Country Carnival  
  2pm Easter Hat Parade  
  Last day of term

**Holiday Activities**
- **Fri 18th/Mon 21st April**  
  Easter Weekend
- **Thursday 25th April**  
  ANZAC Day March at  
  6.15am Dawn Service Picton  
  11.00 am Bargo Sports Club

**TERM 2**
**Week 1**
- **Monday 28th April**  
  Staff development - New Australian Curriculum
- **Tuesday 29th April**  
  Students return.
Gidday there Bargonians!

Well the rain keeps on coming but we really do need it and we can’t do anything about it, so onward I shall go. The Winter Olympics are done but the NRL is about to start. The netballers are moving through the national competition as are the basketballers and the soccer players are at the business end of their respective seasons too. With the end of these seasons, comes the end of our swimming season at home and school. However, it does live on in some of us. With another quality sporting segue for the vault, I will go on!

**Zone Swimming Carnival**

The zone swimming carnival was held last week at the Picton pool and the rain didn’t really give us a break there either. The swimmers all arrived in time to gain a spot under the ‘big top’ of which we eventually were squeezed a little from the prime real estate by Picton PS. Alas the great parents of BPS didn’t let it phase them and went on with the day in the only way they knew how, supportive, competitive and caring towards our swim team. Thank you also needs to go to the parents who offered to transport. Once again, a testament to the support of Bargo parents, we had more seats in cars than we required lifts. Thanks also to all the parents who transported their own children as it is this support that makes transporting children and the organisation of it easier. Thanks to all and sundry.

Both days began the same way, with the presentation of swimming caps to each new team member. The smiles Mr Hockey received were priceless. It is always great to witness proud moments in children’s lives and this was one of those. Thank you to those who received a cap without the school emblem. Please be aware that when the new ones arrive, I will replace your cap with a new one for use in the future, hopefully for most.

Well day one saw the freestylers and relay swimmers hit the pool and we were represented in the heats by:

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The individual events saw the 100m timed final begin the day and Kyle Houghton swam outstandingly well in this event. It is a tough one to start with but sometimes a good warm up for what is to come. Kyle swam well in every event and this one started a very successful carnival for him.

The junior swimmers all did a great job. Some of them in their very first zone carnival especially the 8 year olds. Sarah had a wonderful smile from the start of the day until she left and I’m sure she swam with one as well. The two 8 year old boys are a testament to the theory of 8 year olds in year 2 should participate, as both boys, Rohn and Mitchell, made the final in the 50m freestyle for 8 year olds.

All of the children participated well in their heats and Mr Hockey and I were lucky enough to see all of them in the marshalling area. It was great to see them so relaxed and ready to have a go. Some were understandably nervous when in marshalling but quickly realised they weren’t alone as most other children too, were full of butterflies. As the age groups went through we were not always aware of who progressed to finals but we happily found out that Kyle too made finals for his 50m freestyle. Well done to the 3 boys for making finals. Well done needs to also be said to the other competitors for simply making the zone carnival.

The relays are always a spectacle to behold as the Wollondilly pool erupts with cheers from more voices than in most events as more people, quite frankly have a vested interest in the event. The teams all took their places and lined up possibly for the first time as with our teams. We had a couple of people to thank for their efforts in the relay. Ryan H stepped up to complete the senior boys team in the absence of Jodi W and Emily V stepped up in our senior girls’ relay team to make up the numbers and allow the senior girls an opportunity to swim in the event. Thank you to the pair of you for your effort and support of the school swimming team. It was greatly appreciated by all.

Day 2 saw the strokers compete. Our school was represented by Emily V, Eliza K, Madison S, Nicola P, Kiana C, Alyssa W and Micalei R for the girls, and in the boys we had Rohn S, Jack M, Jye M, Jackson A, Chris D, Ryan H and Kyle H.
The IM was held before the individual strokes and Kyle dove into it, quite literally, and completed the 200m impressively. The next event was the breaststroke which took its time to get through with some children receiving the hard words from the judges at the end of the event. This day was all rain and the marshalling had to move indoors as the backstrokers took centre stage. This went through well and then it was onto butterfly. This tough event was slow but sure and all competitors impressed the spectators with excellent displays of strength and stamina to complete 50m of the most difficult stroke of all.

As I have not received the details of all children at the carnival at this stage, I will let you all know about the times and successes we had as a school at our zone carnival in 2014 in next week’s newsletter. What I can report is that Kyle H has made regional in nearly all of his events - 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m breaststroke and 50m backstroke. He gained a PB in both his freestyle events and in the IM. Outstanding effort Kyle. We look forward to seeing how Kyle compares to other great swimmers in our region on Tuesday 18th March at Bradbury pool. Keep on swimming mate. Well done! I will see you there!

Special Swimming Scheme:
The special swimming scheme for 2014 is nearly full. Thank you to all for returning your notes so far. I will send out more information closer to the date to remind you all about the organisation of the 2 week course of lessons. If you return your note this week, be warned that there are not many places left so you may end up on a waiting list. Thank you all for the support of this program. It is well worth it to develop this life skill in all Australian children, especially Bargonians.

Dates for this term: please be advised that I have posted the dates for various Razorback team trials. They are denoted with an asterisk.

1) *Thursday 6th March (week 6) Zone boys and girls Touch Football trials
2) *Friday 7th March (week 6) Zone AFL trials
3) *Tuesday 11th March (week 7) Zone girls football (soccer) trials
4) *Friday 14th March (week 7) Zone boys 11’s and opens Rugby League trials
5) Monday 17th March (week 8) Special Swimming Scheme Starts (goes until Friday 28th March)
6) Tuesday 18th March (week 8) Mr Kellaway at SSW Regional Swimming Carnival.
7) Thursday 20th March (week 8) Paul Kelly Cup
8) *Friday 21st March (week 8) Zone boys and girls hockey trials
9) *Friday 4th April (week 10) Zone boys and girls softball trials
10) Friday 4th April (week 10) Cricket Gala Day for beginners.
11) Friday 4th April (week 10) PBIS Assembly to hand out swimming certificates and trophies.
12) Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th April (week 11) – Mr Kellaway at State Swimming with SSW team.
13) *Friday 11th April (week 11) Zone netball trials
14) Friday 11th April (week 11) BPS Cross Country/ Easter Hat Parade / Last day of term 1.

Remember, if your child is a gifted sports person in his or her field and you think they are a representative quality player, please let me know so I can trial him or her at school before giving them the opportunity to trial for very competitive Razorback teams.

Bargo Sporting Achievements:
The week before last I received an email about an athletics event that took place with some exciting results for some of our students.

At a recent Little A’s Regional Athletics Carnival at Beaton Park, in Wollongong, the Murphy boys both did extremely well in the pouring down rain. Zac representing, under 8’s for Wollondilly, finished 2nd in the 60m hurdles final and did so with a personal best. He also got 2nd in the 100m final with another pb. The first position kept eluding him as yet again he finished, and quite respectfully too, 2nd place in the 70m by 0.2 sec, so close!! That meant he came away from the meet with an awesome 3 silver medals!! Unfortunately, he is too young for State this year so he will have to wait until 2015 to represent at the State level. Jye represented the under 10’s for Wollondilly and blew his family members away with 2nd in 100m final and he came through with 1st place in the 70m final! So from this meet, he bagged 1 silver and 1 gold medal! This means he qualifies for STATE for both events. He will be representing the Illawarra Region at the State carnival at Olympic Park, Homebush, in March.

Congratulations to both boys for these outstanding achievements. It goes to show that training and persistence go a long way. I also understand that there were only 6 children from Wollondilly zone who automatically qualified for State and 4 of them are from our School. These names are not with me at present but I will endeavour to publicise these achievements after I complete some more investigative journalism (I do use this term, journalism, loosely).

Please share more with me at dean.kellaway@det.nsw.edu.au so I can publicly recognise students’ achievements outside of school. Remember to please state your child’s full name on the information you provide so I know who I am writing about.

See you next time I’m looking at you.

Mr K