Dear parents, carers, staff and students,

Oh my! Where do I start with this newsletter…. with Friday’s Mufti Day…. with excellent student writing… with information about the winning House at the Swimming carnival….. with explanations of events coming up over the next weeks and ways you can help…..

Here goes, I am going to start by saying .. ‘Once again I am a very proud principal. Everyone is working so hard to make Bargo Public School the best in NSW! In Australia, in fact!!!

Well done everyone! Now over to the highlights of last week created by our students!

Koala conservationist Tenille and Mel organised an amazing day for their peers at Bargo Public School. Invited guests from Southern Highlands Koala Sanctuary, Thelma, Charlotte and Jarred presented lots of information to interested students and before long a quick 30 minute talk turned into an hour of learning.

Did you know these facts about koalas:

- Koalas have two thumbs and three fingers. They use their thumbs to scratch important messages into the bark of trees.
- Male koalas bellow very loudly and have scent glands all over their chest. These scent glands are used to mark their territory.
- Koalas travel long distances to find their favourite food supply. Different gum trees produce different flavours. Koalas enjoy a variety of flavours but they do not like all gum leaves.
- Koalas do drink clean water on very hot days and/or when they can not find their preferred gum leaves after bush fires.
- Scientists study koalas and have named their poo droppings, scat. Scientists have also trained dogs to sniff out the koalas. Did you know it is very difficult to locate koalas up trees in the dark?

February 23, 2016

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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:

- Emergency contact names and numbers for 2016 (all students) Just waiting for the final few to come into school
- Permission to have access to technology, photos on the web (all students)
- Voluntary contributions payments (all students) The draw for a year of free excursions will take place at K-6 assembly on March 11.
- PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival – stroke events
- PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival – freestyle events

Thursday is banking day & banking has started for 2016
Tenille and Mel with the support from their parents, teachers and peers raised over $660. Some of this money was presented to Southern Highlands Koala Sanctuary staff at the end of their presentation. Sanctuary staff were shocked by this gesture and generosity. They had not expected anything but an opportunity to chat about their passion for koalas.

Well done Bargo Public School. The rest of the money has been banked, a cheque drawn and mailed to Australian Zoo Koala Research projects. Well done girls! For more information and photos of this event - visit Bargo Public School Facebook page. (It had 1561 hits at the time of writing the newsletter on Sunday). Well done girls—technology is helping to get your message out there.

Now onto excellent writing. Year 3 students have commenced learning a new style of writing, Persuasive text the art of persuading people to agree with your point of view on a particular topic, with their teachers. Here is an example of a student’s first attempt of persuasive text.

**Dogs Are Better Than Cats by Cooper W from 34G**

Dogs maybe weird but they are no fools. What if a burglar came to your house while you were sleeping? A cat would run away while a dog would bark sending off an alarm which would wake you up.

Everyone knows the saying, ‘Dogs are mans best friend’. Well….it is true! My dogs come leaping into my car when I come home from school. They also lick my face and run around.

Say you have an intruder at your house. A dog will bark because it does not know that person. They will also smell out drugs for the police.

Since I live in the highlands, there are no other dogs. So my dogs and I love and I mean love to run around. But most of the time they like to run around by themselves. They do not like water, so they are always dry.

So these are all of the reasons dogs are better than cats. Dogs are companions for life! They love you, they help you and they keep you fit.

They are the best!

Next on the list — the winning house at the Swimming Carnival….. is Cordeaux. Well done everyone!

Finally an explanation of events coming up over the next few weeks and ways you can help…. in point form…. enjoy the read...

- **P & C Annual General meeting ....**

A warm invitation is extended to every parent/carer/friend of Bargo Public School students to become part of the parent group which supports our school. Bargo parents/carers/friends are well known across the area for their generosity. This generosity takes many forms… time to attend meetings… time spent wrapping gifts for our stalls…. time spent organising fundraising efforts…. money spent supporting activities conducted by the P & C…. completing school banking….voluteering in the uniform shop…. sharing ideas…..and the list goes on. Parents/carers/friends help in so many different ways.

Our next meeting will be held in the school library on Wednesday 2nd March commencing at 7pm. Why not come along and help make your child’s school even better. I hope to see you there! PS Children can come along as I understand baby sitting is affected by shift work.

- **Year 6 farewell...**

Please watch for information about this event in term 2 newsletters…. Check the date on the school’s website. It is fixed and will not change.

- **Kings and Queens**

Everyday staff look for students who demonstrate correct behaviour across different times in the school day and across different areas of the school and present them with a ticket. Students write their full name and class on the ticket, then place the tickets in the labelled containers on the trolley outside the canteen. During each K-6 assembly we crown the King and Queen of Safety, the King and Queen of Respectful and the King and Queen of Learning. As well as King and Queen of the Environment, King and Queen of MAD Reading and King and Queen of Friendship. These Kings and Queens receive a crown to wear during their reign. During their reign they will work on the mural (as pictured on page 1) and at the end of reign they receive a canteen voucher to use in the canteen. Thanks to Anna from ALS canteen business for sponsoring this event.

- **Homework**

Homework is official from this week. Remember mums and dads; if the homework is too hard or too easy, just pop a note on the homework sheet for the teacher’s information. It is not your job to complete the homework for your child. It is your job to organise a suitable time and a quiet place to complete the homework.

All teachers require students:

- to read out aloud every night for 10—15 minutes as a minimum, remember to sign the MAD reading card,
- to learn to read, learn to spell and correctly use a list of spelling words in context and out of order. Use the spelling list to create many different sentences or to write a story which shows evidence of transfer from the learnt to the everyday application;
- as well as some mathematics, either problem solving, computation or learning facts such as families of ten, perhaps times tables or formulas.
More and more teachers are using online programs such as Study Ladder and Literacy Pro as part of their homework experiences. When teachers use online learning each student will be issued with logon and password details. At Bargo Public School teachers give students the week to complete their homework, so that families can work around sport and family commitments. As parents themselves, our staff know that children are out and about at sport training, dance classes, music classes at least one night a week if not more.

**Mum and Dad reading also known as MAD**

World renowned author Mem Fox has said over the years... When we look at the sort of home which produces book-lovers, the first thing we notice – the most obvious, but strangely the most often forgotten factor – is that such a home, has books in it. Do you have a wonderful supply of books in your home or do you expect your child to read their library books? Do you and your children visit the local council library? Do you and your children own a free library card? Have you dropped into the mobile library van which visits Bargo each week?

We understand that it is hard to keep students motivated to read each day, more so when the kids reach year 3. So we would like to invite parents and carers into our classroom each morning for just ten minutes. If you are available, drop into a class room and listen to students read, and go in the draw for the parent listener prize.

Book prizes are awarded to students each week at stage assemblies. Teachers give students a MAD ticket each night the child reads. Students can use these tickets in both the weekly lucky book drawand the King and Queen MAD reading draw at the K-6 assembly.

**Anaphylaxis**

As each new year starts and children change classes we would like to remind families that some children at Bargo Public School suffer from allergies (including anaphylaxis) to peanuts/nuts, strawberries, fish and many more foods. These allergies can be very serious. We ask that children do not share or swap food that you have packed for them. Each students with a doctor written plan is monitored very closely during eating sessions, during class cooking sessions and during class mates' birthday celebrations.

We:

- **need a plan from your doctor** if this is an area of concern for your child;
- give every anaphylactic student a red placemat on with to place their food and to remind others that they are not to share/accidently splash their food around, touch anything on the placemat;
- **all students and staff know** how to deal with this medical issue;
- go the extra mile by washing our hands thoroughly and rinsing our mouths after eating;
- ask you to prepare a batch of cakes/treats for freezing in the staff fridge for your child to eat in lieu of eating cake/sweet/treats provided by the birthday child’s parents. Place the treats in a sealed container suitable for freezing with your child’s name on the outside. Teacher’s defrost a treat and ensure your child enjoys their treat with their friends. Sometimes you will need to top up the treats as some classes celebrate more than 10 birthdays a year.

**ALL parents please note** — we remind all students to take home all uneaten food, so that you know what they have eaten during the day and how their tastes are changing. We do not throw food away as we have a number of children with medical conditions related to eating in excess, and they gather extra food supplies from the bins.

We do recycle apple cores, fruit skins and crusts. These food items are eaten by the chickens.

**Dogs in the playground**

No dogs are permitted on school ground! On or off the leash. DOGS are not permitted! We have a number of children who are extremely scared of dogs due to bad experiences with dogs and/or are ALLERGIC to the hair of dogs.

**Head Lice**

Remember to check all heads for head lice tonight. The plan is for you to check your child’s head each Tuesday and should you find head lice in your child’s hair, please treat your family’s hair, brushes, combs and bed linen. Please notify me so that I can advise the school community to take extra precautions by issuing additional notes.

Remember head lice love to live in clean, strong hair. Their eggs are usually found in the warm, moist areas

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**Assembly Awards**

**Week 4**

- Danny R
- Preston M  Cole D
- Dean M  Katie B
- Chelsea B  Liam G
- Raith B  Kira A
- Yvie B  Lachlan J
- Joirdyn C  Alex D
- Jake R  Lily C
- Liam C

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**Book Club Notice**

An order was received for the last book club with no name or class. If your child placed an order and hasn’t received it, contact Mrs Compton in the Library.
behind the ears and along the nape of the neck.

✦ Slip on a Hat!

At school students wearing hats/caps are permitted to play anywhere in the school. Students who forgot their hats/caps are told to play under the COLA or to visit the library. This action is a school rule; as is wearing your school uniform everyday. SLAP on a pair on sunglasses, if you as parents decide that it is OK.

CONGRATULATIONS to all students, staff and parents for your efforts over the last four weeks! All students have been very productive, responding very well to all learning tasks designed by their teachers. I have been very impressed by the standard of work that I am seeing each day.

Parents, teachers have spent the last four weeks instilling a new set of work routines and habits for 2016, so the work has been a little easy. Now the work load and degree of difficulty will start to increase. Also note, children need to work neatly and quickly to complete work in the set timeframes.

Thank you to the teachers for their commitment to creating stimulating learning opportunities and stimulating learning environments.

Thank you to all parents for your commitment to delivering your children safely and on time each day with their equipment for the day.

All students are reminded to hang their bags on a hook outside their room, then to move to the COLA/netball area to meet their friends and play until the music plays. On the sound of the music students should pack up their game. All students are expected to go the toilets, to wash their hands with soap (which has been installed by the P and C) before the bell. On the bell, students are expected to move to their class rooms and line up.

Each morning we have two staff members on duty who roam the COLA and netball areas, and around the classrooms ensuring that everyone is safe and wearing a hat. Thanks mums and dads for making sure your children move up into the correct spaces.

Enjoy the term ahead and aim to learn something new everyday!

Anne Bunga
Principal

Late Breaking News:
Mrs D’Onofrio has undergone surgery after breaking her leg in 3 places. She will not return this term. Mr Smith will be taking 45R for the remainder of the term.

In Loving Memory
Josip Basanovic

1 Year Memorial for Friends & Family
7pm on 4th March at Bargo Oval
Mittagong Blue Light Disco

Venue: Mittagong RSL

Date: Saturday 19th March

Times: 4pm to 6.30 pm

Cost: $5.00 per child 4 – 14 years
Parents and children under 4 free.
### February 2016

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