February 9, 2016

Dear parents, carers, staff and students,

I am very pleased to let you know that all students are settling in very well with their new teachers. All students are busy learning new skills, building on old skills and strengthening their understanding of the world around them.

Many teachers have sent home their ‘2016 Welcome to Class’ letters. If you did not receive one last week, check your child’s school bag this week. In these letters you will learn about topics for term 1, special days in your child’s week, equipment requests and/or invitations to share information with your child’s teacher. Sharing information with your child’s teacher is very important. It helps teachers to understand your child better and to apply appropriate strategies each day. Some examples of the type of information you should share with your child’s teacher include but are not limited to: needing and wearing reading glasses; a change in general health; a change in family composition including pets; unemployment. Children react very differently to each change in their life. You can make contact with your child’s teacher by phone; call to set up an appointment, email to my address anne.bunga@det.nsw.edu.au or by catching your teacher before or after school. I would ask that you PLEASE AVOID Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings as all staff are required to attend mandatory professional development at these times. Thank you!

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter we have a number of ways to communicate important information to you.

We have a School website – www.bargo-p.schools.nsw.edu.au (or just type ‘Bargo Public School’ into Google) On this website you will find collection of photos of school activities (Please return the yellow Permission to be on internet/photographed paperwork), newsletters, the school calendar (Year 6 parents you might like to pop the dates for the Year 6 formal into your diary now) and school policies (this is a new development in 2016 and will commence later this week. Look under the tabs ‘OUR SCHOOL’ > policies’). Bargo Public School Facebook site – run by teaching staff. Here staff share what is happening inside their classroom, with examples of written, verbal or photographic work samples. At the moment it is a closed site for viewing by our community.

Finally we have Schoolstream – a free app for your mobile phone. Go to the app store on your smart phone, search for Schoolstream>download>then select ‘Bargo PS’ I understand one of the local preschools is also using Schoolstream so you can have both sites on your phone. Remember to push notification so that the messages appear on your mobile when they are sent, rather than looking for them later.

Schoolstream has active notes under notes section. To report your child’s absence from school School stream app > tap FORMS > tap ABSENCE FORM> complete the information, sign and submit.

Supportive IT savvy parents also run the Bargo Public School Community Facebook. This is an open site where you can post items for discussion by the broader community, advertise clothing for sale and so much more.

Year 6 students will be given their expression of interest paperwork for High School 2017 soon. It is important that all parents of Year 6 students complete and return the form a.s.a.p., whether they are seeking placement in a public school or a private school in 2017. I would encourage all parents of students in year 5 and 6 to start shopping around for the child’s High School. You can do this by attending various parent information nights which will be held over coming weeks. You are invited to attend as many as you like so that you can find out more about the High Schools:

- Picton High School—TBC still waiting on info. Meetings are held at Picton High School in the hall and usually commence at 7pm
- Campbelltown Performing Arts High School – 6pm Wednesday 10th February at Campbelltown Performing Arts HS. Applications to CPAHS are by audition. All paperwork is due to the High School on or before 28 February with the non-refundable audition processing fee.
- Bowral High School—6pm Wednesday March 2nd at Bowral High School

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

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**Bargo PS Kids are Safe Respectful Learners**

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**Koala! Koala**

Koala! Koala! We love you, but we chop down your home and you run away.
Koala! Koala! Where do you go, when we take your gum trees away?

Please don’t run on the road and please don’t cry.
Help is on its way!

We’re gonna learn what makes you die,
Gonna send in some money today.
We’re gonna learn what makes you die,
Help is on its way!

Koalas, they used to be everywhere.
What a paradise it could be, a walk in the bush could be heaven,
bring the dreamtime back to me.

Yeah,
We’re gonna learn what makes you die,
Gonna send in some money today.

Mufti Day 19.2.16 – Fund raising for Koalas!
Dress like an Australian Native animal and support Tenille and Mel with their fund raising initiative.
**Things week's additional topics for parents:**

**Sporting events**

Sport and sporting events are a mandatory part of school. Next Monday we are having our annual swimming carnival and all students are expected to attend. We have issued permission notes and it is important that these notes are signed and returned to school asap with the $10 sporting levy. The $10 levy covers expenses incurred by the school to hold this event. The costs include and are not limited to: hiring most of the lanes in the in-door pool, in other words pool entry, bus to and from the pool, trophies, hiring of sport specific equipment and employment of extra staff to ensure students' safety.

**What will my child do at the swimming carnival?**

At all times students are expected to sit in their house groups, under the shade cloth. Parents are invited to join their children. Bring along a comfy chair. Students are not permitted to sit away from their house group.

Firstly we have the very competitive students who swim in many events trying very hard to earn a position on our BPS Swim team to attend the Razorback PSSA swimming carnival later this month, while other students will enter many events to earn points for their House team. I wonder which House will be the Champion House in 2016?

All students will be encouraged to participate in the 50 metre races, in order to have a great day. Before the beginning of each race staff organise confident swimmers into the middle lanes and the less confident swimmers into the outside lanes. Students who have never swum the length of the 50 metre pool before are watched very closely with teachers and life savers walking the length of the pool beside them. By the time the weaker swimmers reach the half way mark their peers have usually started a chant to encourage them to finish the lap.

Parents of students attending their first swimming carnival, be assured that safety is our first priority. All staff are trained and ready to dive into the pool, if necessary. Using the hoop or asking the student to hold onto the lane rope is usually the most that happens. Swimmers are also asked if they would like to stop and rest along the way or to climb out of the pool if they appear to be tiring. You can be assured that the kids are very proud of their efforts, no matter how far or how fast they swim.

Next we have the novelty events students. These students are encouraged to build up their water confidence by participating in a range of shallow water races in the in-door pool. These races are held in the middle of the day and are fully organised by BPS staff. While waiting for these races to start, the students scream out their chants and encouragement to their team mates in their House group.

Finally, we have our non-swimmers. These students assist their team with chants and words of encouragement or they are used by the teacher to carry out jobs, such as taking the time sheet to the admin office at the other end of the pool so that teachers can enter the details into the computer, make the awards and calculate house team points.

Another common question asked by parents is: **Can my child stay at the pool following the carnival because they have swimming lessons or squad?** The answer is yes, if you are there at the pool at the end of the carnival to sign them out. No- child can stay at the pool without a parent present. You can also sign your child out if you would like to take them home from the pool. Just see your child’s teacher on the day and sign the necessary paperwork.

**Primary School Sporting Association (PSSA)**

Students are able to participate in a range of PSSA run sports, once they turn 8 years of age. At BPS students can participate in Gala Sporting Day against 22 other local primary schools in either Junior (usually year 3 and 4 students) or Senior teams (usually year 5 and 6 students). The cost is $10 per sport and usually the teams travel together on a bus. Sometimes we share a bus with another school to help reduce costs.

During term 1 students from year 5 and 6 (and occasionally year 4, depending on their talent) can trial for places on the Razorback PSSA sporting teams. The trial levy is usually $5 and our school is permitted to send 3-4 students per sport to trial. Transport to these trials need to be organised by parents. When students are selected to play on Razorback PSSA team(s), parents are required to take their child to training sessions, to games, to purchase uniforms and to pay additional fees.

**In-School sport programs**, teachers at BPS hold many different sporting qualifications. Over the course of the year your child’s teachers will develop and build on fundamental movement skills required to play a range of team and individual sports. Students will learn new sports, revisit old games and participate in the Premier’s Sporting Challenge. As a school, students will be given opportunities to participate in a number of free clinics conducted by Cricket Australia, Country RL, AFL and many others codes. Students will also participate in a specialist gymnastic program delivered by highly qualified experts from Gymtastics - a local business.

**10 Day Intensive Learn to Swim School.**

These classes are held during school time and give your child the opportunity to develop water safety skills where they can become water safe, this is a **Skill for Life**. These classes are run by the Department of Education staff and are trained teachers as well as experts in teaching swimming. We are offering places to students from Years 1 to 6, who are not water confident and/or cannot confidently swim 25m in deep water. We sought special permission to involve year 1 students this time and permission was granted.

The students shall be placed in age and ability groups so that they are learning with others of similar ability. To place your child in this program the total cost of the 10 Day Intensive Swimming Scheme is $80.00 If your child has a pool pass please contact the school for a reduced fee. These lessons have been booked to make sure **YOUR** child is safe near water, especially when you or another adult may not be there, remember a child can drown in a very small amount of water. Due to work commitments we know how difficult it is for some parents to get their children to the pool for lessons, so let us assist you.

**Muf Day**

As mentioned in the budget section of last week's newsletter we have a student charity each term. This term the charity/ fund raising event is for Koalas. Tenille, a conservationist who helps to protect local Koalas, approached me in 2015 about initiating this charity. This year Tenille and her friend, Mel have busy. They are prepared and ready to guide their peers They have started their campaign by writing the jingle on the front page of the newsletter, making announcements at mini assemblies and preparing posters for display around the school. The girls are currently making a range of book marks for sale on the day (50cents) and they plan on doing a little baking ($2 per cake). In the meantime they are asking their peers to prepare an outfit to wear on the day and to donate a gold coin towards the cause.

All students are invited to wear ears purchased or made at home representing an Australian Native animal. You can come out of uniform on this day – Friday February 19th. If you are creative you might like to dress as your favourite Australian animal.
Student attendance and Safety

It is a legal requirement and parental responsibility that all students attend school each and every day that they are well. As a school we can assist you and your child, if you experience any difficulties, just talk to us. If your child is absent from school, a parent must provide a signed note of explanation. An absence note is available on Schoolstream—look under notes.

Parents are also responsible for ensuring that their children arrive at school daily between 8.45 am and 9.10am ready for a 9.15am start.

Teachers are on duty during this time and actively monitor students on the netball court and under the COLA. Students and their parents should not wait outside classrooms, this is out of bounds area - waiting in this area will result in negative consequences.

Parents are also responsible for ensuring that their children are collected promptly each afternoon at 3.20 pm. If there is an issue due to traffic delays or delays at work, just ring the office before 3pm with a message and we will let your children know about the new arrangements. If your normal routine has changed for the day please write a note letting your child’s teacher know, so that the class teacher can reinforce your instructions. Children do forget!

Where children are late or need to leave early they must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver to the front office. At the front office you will need to identify yourself and the reason why you are taking your child out of school (or why they are late to school), following this brief conversation you will be issued with a yellow slip which must be handed to the class teacher. Again a legal requirement.

With the installation of the security fence the only entrance which opens during the day is the front gate near the office. Simply press the BLUE button and wait for the office staff to open the gate. When you leave the school you will need to call into the office so that the ladies can open the gate for you. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should you use the car park entrance as pedestrian access!!

STUDENTS, CARS and PARKING
The safety of children coming in and out of school is a priority for drivers and pedestrians alike. Please ensure that you REMEMBER to:

- park in a sensible manner in the car parks at the front and rear of the school and walk your children into school;
- park correctly within the marked areas on the streets surrounding the school;
- listen to and follow the directions of the crossing attendant, Dianne;
- slow down in the 40 zones.

look both ways when you are entering or leaving the dirt car park opposite the front of the school.

HEAD LICE
Head lice is an ongoing problem for most schools. Families spend an incredible amount of time and money trying to eradicate these little creatures. Over the last 6 years we have had an incredible amount of success with our plan, but we cannot afford to become complacent. The plan is for you to check your child’s head each and every Monday evening. 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 behind the ears and along the nape of the neck.

Some simple solutions include:
- tying your child’s hair up — both boys and girls
- spraying your child’s hair with hairspray, making it much harder for the nit to attach to the hair shaft
- spraying Tea Tree oil in the lining of the school cap, nits don’t like the smell.

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)
- Permission to attend local excursions (all students)
- Permission to have access to technology, photos on the web (all students)
- Voluntary contributions payments (all students)
- How do you wish to receive your weekly newsletter
- Swimming School for years 1 to 6 and via Schoolstream - online select 10 days of swim school from the drop down menu
- PSSA Razorback trials (limited to year 6 and strong yr5 students)

Thursday is banking day & banking has started for 2016
Students of Bargo Public School are invited to support; Koala Day
Friday, 19th February 2016

Please come dressed as a koala or any other Australian animal to support koala rehabilitation

Events for the day
Gold coin for anyone wearing a multi-outfit
A stall that will be selling cupcakes and bookmarks

Cupcakes $2 each or 2 for $3
Bookmarks 50c each or 3 for $1

All money raised will be donated to Australia Zoo to support animal rehabilitation
So please bring money on Koala day!

Mittagong Blue Light Disco
Venue: Mittagong RSL
Date: Saturday 13th February
Times: 4pm to 6.30 pm
Cost: $5.00 per child 4 – 14 years
Parents and children under 4 free.

Lara’s Family Day Care
Bargo

Quality childcare in a home environment
Stimulating activities to suit children’s individual needs and interests.
Providing a fun filled caring environment using the Early Years Learning Framework and School Readiness Programmes.

Available Days
Monday to Friday
Full week care available

Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate
Available to eligible families

Taking Enrolments Now!

Contact Lara 0439 064 406
Lara@larafdc.com
Registered with Wollondilly Shire Council
With Early Childhood Care
Ph: 0437 786 627, Email: Lara@larafdc.com.au

STADS
Acting Dance Singing Agency

Actors, Singers & Dancers

Now booking for 2016! For Ages 18 months to adult.

NEW!! Boys Hip Hop & Adult classes!
*Drama/Acting* *Singing* *Dance/Choreography*
*Personal Training* AND *The Agency*

Class numbers are strictly limited. Saturday classes available.
Come in and join the fun today!! For more information call Sarah on 0415 985 225 or www.s-t-a-d-s.com

FAMILY GP

Tahmoor Medical, Allied & Alternative Therapies P/L
Dr Ron Campbell B.Med (Hons) FRACGP, B.Pharm, B.Sc.
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- Dietitian

Practice Hours:
Mon 9am-1pm
Tues 2pm-6pm
Wed 2pm-6:30pm
Thurs 2pm-5:30pm
Fri 2pm-6pm
Sat/Sun Closed
87 Remembrance Dr Tahmoor
*Appointments Preferred*
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Yrs 1-6 intensive Swim School commences for 10 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Yrs 1-6 intensive Swim School commences for 10 days</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>PSSA P/B/G Basketball Championships</td>
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<td>SSW P/B/G Basketball Championships</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>PSSA Tennis Champ</td>
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<td>K-6 Assembly 2:10pm start</td>
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<td>In school excursion — EdQ</td>
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<td>EASTER</td>
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**Notes:**
- SSSS: Special School Sports Sessions
- SSS: Special Sports Sessions
- PSSA: Primary School Sports Association
- SSW: Subprimary School Sports
- PB: Primary Basketball
- PG: Primary Football
- EDQ: Edith Quotidian
- Wollondilly: Wollondilly Principals Meet
- AFL: Australian Football League
- Mufti: Mufti Day
- AFL clinic: AFL after school clinic
- Band: Band in the hall
- Swimming Carnival: Swimming Carnival at Picton
- Razorback Swimming Carnival: Razorback Swimming Carnival at Picton
- Koala grey day: Koala grey day Multi
- Primary AFL Development Day: Primary AFL Development Day
- School Photos: School Photos