



BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Striving, Thinking, Learning



Newsletter

Wednesday 4 March 2009
Term 1 Week 6

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From the School Team Leader

UPDATE REGARDING SCOTT CAYZER

It was terrific to speak to Scott earlier in the week to find out his rehabilitation is progressing well. His 'medical support team' are pleased with the milestones he is reaching and this is really lifting his spirits and motivating him to apply himself fully when he spends time at the local hospital. His aerobic capacity is increasing with each visit although no 'radar traps' are being set at this stage. His family continues to provide ongoing support along with many colleagues from the school. I'm sure that before we know it Scott will include a visit to the school on his daily agenda as he always asks about happenings at Bowral.

SOUTH COAST REGIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This event is being held at the Dapto Pool on Thursday 5 March 2009. Bowral will be well represented on the day with sixteen of the school's most talented swimmers flying our 'flag'. Good luck to these children and I feel confident that they will represent our school with distinction and pride. The wonderful support from families is appreciated at this time as our children strive for excellence in this sporting discipline. Success at this level will enhance the students' opportunities to gain regional honours to attend the state carnival at Homebush, the venue for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, in the final two days of term one.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Currently, a number of Southern Highlands Department of Education and Training schools are participating in a two day course where the focus is reviewing the school's image within the community. After day one, held last Thursday at Goulburn, the school team is required to undertake a number of tasks (homework) to gauge current perceptions. As a component of this process, Bowral is to re-examine the role played in producing material in the school newsletter. This is more fully explained in a survey attached to the newsletter. I would encourage all families to take a minute or two (that's all it will take) to complete a one page survey and return it to the school not later than Tuesday 10 March 2009. Your co-operation at this time would be appreciated.

SELF HELP DAY

May I add my congratulations to the Gibraltar team for the wonderful organisation and enthusiasm that they demonstrated last Friday during self help. The variety of fun activities was surprising and allowed all the customers to make informed decisions as to how they were going to spend their money. As a result of everyone's' efforts, just under \$2300 was raised. \$2000 has now be added to the Creative and Practical Arts budget that will allow the purchase of additional consumables items to be used by our students as well as the addition of identified teaching resources. The balance of the day's takings

will be added to the money already collected to aid the Australian Red Cross Victorian bushfire appeal. Thank you to all students, staff and families in the way you supported this day.

P & C MEETING

Like the staff and children, I appreciate and thank our hard working P & C members for the initiatives they have implemented this term. This Friday is the last day for families to place their bulb orders. Any donations of daffodils that will be used to enhance the colour of our gardens during spring time would be appreciated. In the separate green note readers will find details of ways that families can support the victims of the Victorian bushfires through the donation of books or stationery. I urge all families to contribute what they can to enhance and reassure the lives of young children in their endeavours to 'return to normal' after the terrible experiences that many have suffered. Your compassion and empathy are really appreciated at this time.

A CHANGE OF DIRECTION

After forty one years of teaching in NSW Government schools I have made the decision to retire at the end of this current term. This has been a difficult decision to make as I will be leaving behind many wonderful memories of children in a number of different school settings. Throughout my career I have appreciated the support of children, families and teachers as this has helped me to reach my goals and aspirations. The timing of this announcement will allow a permanent principal to be appointed to commence duty at the beginning of term two. I will miss the wonderful children of Bowral who have always been so friendly and courteous to me, both in the classroom when I had the privilege of teaching them or observing their work, as well as the times our paths have crossed in the playground. With my wife Kathryn, who has been such a wonderful support, we now look forward to quality time together in retirement.

CALENDAR

Friday 6 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Gundengarra Indigenous workshop POSTPONED TODAY ♦ P&C BULB FUNDRAISER ORDERS DUE TODAY
13 March—20 March	♦ Bullying Awareness Program
9 March—13 March	♦ Stage 3 Camp
Monday 16 March	♦ P & C Meeting 7:30pm in the school library
Thursday 19 March	♦ Paul Kelly Cup Stage 3
Wednesday 1 April	♦ School Cross Country (Robertson)
Friday 3 April	♦ PSSA Soccer Gala Day
Wednesday 8 April	♦ ANZAC Service
Thursday 9 April	♦ Easter Hat Parade 12 noon K—Year 2 (<i>date changed</i>)
Term 1	♦ Canteen Open Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Photo removed

and personal challenges in a supportive environment. Much will be learnt from the experience and their interaction with other students is an essential part of learning to 'get on with others'. Thanks are also extended to the teachers who will not only supervise the children but also serve as nurturing and guiding adults during the week long camp. Their personal commitment, away from their families, is both appreciated and acknowledged. We all look forward to their safe return and the sharing of wonderful stories about camp highlights.

SPORTS WRAP

1. The first game for the school cricket team in the state PSSA knockout will be played against Moss Vale Public School on Monday 16 March 2009. Final preparation, with regards the organisation for the day, are underway and it is anticipated the game will be played at Stephens Park. It is hoped to finalise the members of the school team on Friday at a net and fielding practice session at Bradman Oval between 2.00pm and 3.00pm.(subject to ground availability in light of the ICC Women's World Cup matches). Players involved in this activity will bring home a note.

2. Students from Bowral Public School have been invited to display their talents during the lunch break of the ICC Women's World Cup at Bradman Oval on Thursday 12 March 2009. More information will leave the school later this week regarding organisation. For those representing the school, school uniform, not cricket whites will be required. Families are encouraged to visit Bradman Oval on Saturday to watch India versus Pakistan.

LIFE EDUCATION

Last Monday Happy Harold and his van arrived at our school for the 2009 round of Life Education lessons. Accompanied by Rebecca, the Life Education educator, all Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two students will participate in an hour long session while this time will be increased by thirty minutes for students in Year Three through to Year Six. The lessons provided are truly lessons for life and strongly support the outcomes and indicators that are embedded in the Physical Education/Health/Personal Development Key Learning Area. Please take the opportunity to speak to your child about both the lesson in the van and the follow up teaching/learning activities developed by each teacher. You will be amazed by what your child will remember and share with you.

STAGE THREE CAMP

Our Year Five and Year Six students are in the final stages of their preparation for their camp at Narrabeen Sport and Recreation facility. This is a wonderful experience for these children and I am confident that they will represent our school with pride and demonstrate the core values embedded in our school culture. Their time away will enable them to 'find out more about themselves' as they take on a variety of physical

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

If your child is to attend non scripture please notify this request in writing. Any change of scripture class needs to be put in writing by Friday 6 March to Miss Christie.

John Morris
School Team Leader

Bowral Public School



For those in Stages 1 and 2 who attended the Parent Information Evenings, you would have heard about the Class Contact List system we would like to bring into the school. Some classes have been very proactive and are up and running, but for those who couldn't get to the evenings I thought a little clarification was in order.

Basically a Class Contact List allows families in your class to have access to your telephone number and email address should you voluntarily place them on the list. It is a system that is used in many schools for ease of communication within your class (if your teacher needs to get information out quickly it can be done via email). *Should you wish to have your details added to your class list, it goes no further than your class.* The other part of the process is to have a Class Parent who collates the details and either prints or emails them to the other members of the list. This person is also generally a contact point for the teacher, should something need to be arranged for your class. It isn't a huge task but can help facilitate class/year get togethers for both children and parents, giving the forum for families to get to know one another.

It is a system that works on many different levels, the most basic being able to contact the family of the child your child is bugging you to invite to play.

If you wish to have your details added to your Class Contact List, please complete the note below and return to your teacher. If you fancy the idea of being the Class Parent, please let your teacher know.

I would also like to draw your attention to the green note being sent home. It would be wonderful to have the support of the families of our school in this endeavour.

Justine McKinlay

NB Bulb Fundraiser orders—closing date Friday 6 March 2009

✂

Please add my details to the Parent Contact List for my child's class

Child's Name: _____ Parent's Name/: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

1/2P FANTASTIC ASSEMBLY / WONDERFUL NARRATIVES

It was heartening to attend last week's Stage 1 assembly conducted by the students of 1/2P. The public speaking skills that were demonstrated highlighted the importance of encouraging all children, from an early age, to have the opportunity to present their thoughts and ideas in front of an audience. Well done speakers.

Next, we had the marvelous plays that were written and performed by the students. They put into practice, and understood, the structure of a narrative ie. orientation (setting the scene), complication (what's the problem?) and the resolution (solving the problem at the conclusion). The 'wedding' had a 'double complication' with the groom having a car that wouldn't go and a bride who was left standing at the altar without knowing what had happened. The 'birthday' also incorporated the values of friendship and forgiveness after one of the guests at the party lost his temper. With Christmas not long over it was clear to the writers of the play just how tired Santa gets and how he needs his rest. Easter is just around the corner and the Easter Bunny does need to be careful of barking dogs. How creative and innovative 1/2P – putting your knowledge into practice for the enjoyment of all who attended.

Sebastian was fantastic as the music man – playing the piano for each play.

At our parent / teacher evening, we spoke about 'Thinkers Keys' and encouraging students to broaden and develop how they think, justifying their opinion and also looking at ideas in different ways. The B.A.R. key is one where the B stands for bigger ie. enlarging or increasing the concept; A stands for adding – more details are needed; and R is for replacement – make a change to an existing aspect.

Below are some excerpts from the narratives written by 1/2P showing their understanding of the orientation and complication and also the BAR key where the initial idea has been replaced.

The Wedding by Elizabeth

Groom: The groom's car breaks down half way there. He can't get to the wedding. He rang up the repairman then he drove them to the wedding.

Bride: The bride gets upset. She thinks the groom doesn't love her or has had a car accident. Finally the groom turned up. What a beautiful wedding. (Note the double complication)

PHOTO REMOVED

The Birthday by Daniel

John took the cake and replaced the cake with a water balloon. When they cut the cake it popped. (This is the R for Replace as originally John took the birthday presents as the complication)

The Birthday by Lucie

When John got out he stomped away but when he went he took the presents. He threw the presents out of the window. But out of the window was a pond of quicksand. So then, Ronan was so sad but John said sorry to Ronan. And then Ronan said that was the best party ever. (This is A for Add as when John originally took the presents he hid them under the bed. It also looks at the values of forgiveness and kindness).

Ninja Turtles by Reuben

Once upon a time there lived 4 ninja turtles. Their names were Leonardo, and Nintendo and Raphael and Mike. Mike is very funny. Mike does sewer skating. There are lots of weapons in their shells. Leonardo and Raphael had a big fight about being the best leaders of the brothers. (Reuben wrote this at home. He shows an understanding of the orientation and introduces the complication with a reason for the complication.)

Jan Christie

Deputy Principal

ICAS " University Testing" for Years 3 to 6 Reminder CLOSERS FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2009

Thank you to all those who have sent in their forms and money. Entry form & Permission note at the school office.

★ In 2009 the writing task will focus on the argument text type.

COMPETITION SUBJECT	COST	COMPETITION DATE
Computer Skills	\$6.00	Wednesday 27 May
Science	\$6.00	Wednesday 10 June
Spelling	\$8.00	Tuesday 23 June
Writing ★	\$11.00	Tuesday 23 June
English	\$6.00	Tuesday 4 August
Mathematics	\$6.00	Wednesday 19 August

BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL / NEWSLETTER SURVEY

As a school we are always trying to improve the way we communicate with our community. We value your feedback and are seeking your opinions on the current newsletter so we can make it more relevant to you.

Please return the completed survey to Bowral Public School by 10 March 2009.

Thank You
John Morris
PRINCIPAL

1. Do you receive the school newsletter? (please tick) Yes No

2. Which of the following statements best matches your reading habits? (please tick)

I always read the entire newsletter I never read the newsletter

I only read parts of the newsletter. Please state why?

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3. What is the most useful section of the newsletter? (rank in order of importance from 1 to 11)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information about teaching staff | <input type="checkbox"/> School Success | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents (P&C) report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational information | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport report | <input type="checkbox"/> Each year group report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Principal's message | <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Community information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achievements of the students | <input type="checkbox"/> Term calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

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4. Do you have any suggestions for additional content that you would like to see included in the newsletter? (please tick)

Information about specific learning programs, subjects or learning stages. Please state:

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Information about our teachers Information about tests and homework

Other:

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5. What was the most useful piece of information in the newsletters this month?

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6. What information in the newsletter is most important to you?

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7. What information do you most enjoy reading in the newsletter?

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8. How would you currently access the newsletter? (please tick)

- taken home by child school website both

9. What day would you prefer to receive the newsletter? (please tick)

- Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

10. Any other feedback?

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**We appreciate and thank you for your feedback.
We will be reporting the results of this survey in the newsletter shortly.**