February 20, 2014

A small community where the students shine!

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Could all Parents please check their children’s hair, as lately there have been a number of cases of head lice. If children’s hair is checked on a regular basis, we hope that this issue will be kept under control. Thank you.

Foundation (Preps) attend school from 9.00am – 1.30pm until the end of February.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Items sent home will generally be colour coded.

Pale Blue or White General Notices

Gold Excursion Incursion

Orange Important Messages

Bright Pink Fundraising

School Hours and Break Times

Plasagrounds supervised from 8:45 a.m. and from 3:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Students arrive 8:50, Classes start promptly at 9.00 a.m.

Morning Recess is from 11am – 11:30am  Lunch 1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Dates for your diary

February

27th  District Swimming

March

4th  Pancake Day

5th  Breakfast Club 8.00 a.m.

7th  CURRICULUM DAY – No school for students

12th  School Council AGM 3.45pm

27th  Whole School Photos

Please read this newsletter, as it is an important communication between school and home.

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Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to the news this week.

**Every Day Counts**

The Department of Education is currently focusing on the attendance of children at school. There are many students who are missing a disturbing number of days and this is having an impact on their learning. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Attendance patterns are established early- a child regularly missing days in the early years of kinder and primary school will often continue to miss classes in the later years and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It is vital that children attend school every day even at primary school.

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school for sickness or medical appointments. It is vital that they are only away on the days they are genuinely unable to attend. Setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It is Vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

Day Off – Think twice before you let your child have a ‘day off’ as this can lead to them falling behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy and schools and parents need to work together on this one.

If for any reason your child needs to legitimately miss school, there are things you can do to ensure they do not fall behind-

- Speak with your classroom teacher to find out what work you will need to cover with your child while away.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your child’s teacher and ensure your child completes it.

Openly communicating with your child’s teacher about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues escalating to a report to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement notice.

If you are having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Please read the following newsletter notice informing you that new laws will be commencing on March 1st that mean parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

I wish you a happy and healthy week ahead,

Averil Nunn

Principal
Every day counts – school attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Nomination forms for School Council are available from the office now.

BREAKFAST CLUB will commence on Wednesday, 5th March, 2014

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs will take place on Thursday, 27th March. Payment on the day is by filling out the Credit Card Section or with cash to the photographer in the envelope that will be given to your child. These are the only payment options. To avoid disappointment on the day, please note this date in your calendar and put the money aside in the coming weeks. The school does not handle payments and is unable to provide change for students on the day.
Does your child love to run, jump, climb, hang, swing, bounce & tumble?
If you answered “yes”, then

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Berwick Fields Primary School
Gwendoline Ave
Berwick
Sun 23rd February
9am – 12

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SOUTHERN CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Tel. 8786 9076 Mob. 0418 150 405
EMAIL: cliffwilson@caydam.com
WEB: www.caydam.com
First lesson is FREE!
LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE
Deja-vu

I can remember as a child and adolescent that there were certain teachers in my life that really stood out. They were either great role models when none could be found or teachers who were cool and got what it was like to be a teenager. Or at times, teachers who really invested in my education even if I didn’t care. I will never forget a Geography teacher I had called Mr Lee, who in year 9 after one of my classes with him approached me and said that he was concerned that I was hanging around the wrong group of friends. He feared it would affect my marks. In later years at high school when I was competing in Athletics Zone level, he would be on the side lines cheering me on when my parents were too busy to attend. Until now I think of him and how much concerted effort he put in for my welfare. I wish I could see him today and thank him for it, for at that time he made me feel as though someone did care about me and that gave me the motivation to strive for higher marks.

I experienced deja-vu a couple of weeks ago when one of my children’s teachers approached me in the car to tell me a concern that she held and wanted to notify me straight away. I was really touched at the effort she made to not only use her free time but to also walk to my car and speak to me about her concerns. I had a smile on my face for the rest of the day to know that one of my children had a teacher that cared about them the way that Mr Lee cared about me. Through our daily busy lives we do not always notice events that are happening in our children’s lives and aren’t always there when the red lights start to flash. But teachers are. All I can say is, Thank God for good, invested teachers.

CHaTS Morning Tea....

A gentle reminder to all mums and friends who are available on Wednesday morning (26th February) that our CHaTS catch up continues on this morning.

New mums/friends are most welcome to attend. Come and see for yourself how this inspiring group share a strong and committed friendship/vision for our children and for our school community!

Hope to see you all with CHaTS ideas in the school staffroom at around 9.15am........Mrs. Singh
Come & Try Month

Are you looking for a sport that will develop your child's self-confidence, performance technique & sportsmanship, whilst teaching commitment, stage craft & a range of skills including, Dance, Modified gymnastics, Singing, Marching, & Modified ballet

Calisthenics may be the sport for you.

Berwick Calisthenics has been established for over 40 years and offers your child an opportunity to belong to a Parent run club, offering Calisthenics tuition at the highest level, whilst still focusing on fun and individual development.

For the month of February we are offering the opportunity to come & try calisthenics for all ages.

Tiny Tots (3-5yrs) Saturdays 9.00-10.00am
Tunies (5-7yrs) Saturdays 10.30-12.30pm
Subbies (8-10yrs) Saturdays 1.00-4.00pm
Juniors (11-13yrs) Mondays 3.30-6.30pm
Inters (14-16yrs) Thursdays 6.15-9.15pm
Seniors (16yrs+)* Tuesdays 6.30-10.00pm
Masters (20yrs+)* Wednesdays 7.00-9.30pm

All classes as of the 31st December 2014
*All classes commencing first week of Feb
*Masters (20yrs+) starting 12-Feb

For more information please contact
Melissa 0400 584 914
email bcw@nethost.com.au

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