From the Principal’s Desk

The other day one of our students approached me in the playground and said “I love school because it is so much fun!” When I inquired why, they told me it was because they learn so many exciting things!” Comments like these reflect the very positive attitude our students have about their learning and this is a result of the support and encouragement they receive from home and the excellent learning opportunities provided at this school.

As we come to the end of another busy term and reflect on the range of learning experiences our students have enjoyed it is timely to acknowledge and thank the teaching staff for their hard work and commitment to our school. Our children have enjoyed exciting camps, excursions to very interesting places related to their curriculum studies, a faction swimming carnival and other sporting events and carnivals. They have had opportunities to access the skills and expertise of other people in our community through incursions such as the Fisheries incursion, the Artist in Residence mosaic incursion and enjoy the music of visiting performing groups. They have also been challenged on a daily basis in their classrooms as teachers provide motivating and relevant strategies to teach both Literacy and Numeracy skills. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of both parents and staff this term who have once again shown great commitment to the students in our school.

In 2015 we have a number of staff who are enjoying some well deserved long service leave. Mrs Bell is currently on extended long service leave and her position is being capably filled by Mrs Aneta Barnes. Mrs Bell will return in Week 4 next term. Mrs Deb Taylor will also be taking long service leave and she will be absent for two terms returning at the beginning of fourth term. Her position as Year 5 class teacher will be filled by Ms Susane Denman. We wish Mrs Taylor safe travels and a very well deserved holiday.

We also would like to share the good news that Mrs O’Donnell has given birth to a healthy little boy and we congratulate her and her husband on the arrival of Rory Mac. Mrs O’Donnell is due to return to school later this year.

I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at our P and C meeting on Monday 30th March and encourage you to support this group of parents who are keen to ensure our school maintains quality resources and attractive, well maintained school grounds.

I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable holiday shared with your children and we look forward to seeing your children back at school on Monday 20th April.

Jayne Ebsworthy
25th March 2015

Next week we will farewell Mrs Kate Graham as she takes leave to give birth and care for her baby. Kate has been teaching our specialist Music program for more than four years. In that time she has created a music program that is well respected in the wider community. She is greatly appreciated by our school community, who enjoy the high quality of music that fills our school on a daily basis and on special occasions. We thank her sincerely for her hard work and commitment. In her absence Mrs Jenny Coleman who is also a talented musician and trained teacher will fill Mrs Graham’s role.

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Last Friday, Burrendah celebrated Harmony Day – this was the 15th Anniversary of Harmony Day being celebrated across Australia. Australia is one of the world’s most multicultural nations and is made up of many indigenous, immigrant and refugee cultures. During the past 200 years immigrants have helped change and shape our national identity by sharing their rich cultural experiences, histories and traditions.

Year 3, Rooms 22 & 23 provided a wonderful assembly item, with children sharing their “stories” of where they were born, what language(s) they speak at home, how they felt when they arrived at Burrendah. Everyone has a story to tell and children were encouraged to go home and ask their parents to tell them their “story”, so that they understand their backgrounds.

At lunchtime, parents and grandparents were invited to a Family Picnic on the lawn under the shade of the trees. This was a wonderful opportunity for children and parents to share different cultural food with their friends.

In Term Family Vacations

Thank you to those that have been notifying the school when you plan to take your child out of class for an in-term family vacation, it is really appreciated.

Research recently undertaken by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Student Attendance and Educational Outcomes: Every Day Counts, has found a clear link between student absence and achievement in school. Each day a child is absent from school has a direct impact on their educational outcomes.

Ms Sharyn O’Neill, Director General, has highlighted student engagement and attendance as priorities in Focus 2015 Directions for schools. Establishing and maintaining a positive attendance career for all students ensures success in their future study and career pathways. When a student misses one school day per fortnight they will, by Year 9, have missed one entire year of school.

Leadership Forum

On Friday March 13th, Carynne Koh and I were very honoured to be invited to a Leadership Forum with Western Australia’s Premier, Colin Barnett. This was held in the impressive new lecture theatre at Willetton Senior High School. We were joined by other school leaders from various schools in our area ranging from year 6s to year 12s. The afternoon consisted of the premier explaining to us what it takes to be successful leaders of the future and we were given time to ask questions which was very interesting.

By Corey Warner
2015 School Captain
This week there has been something “fishy” happening in science. Smells from the ocean and beach have been wafting from the Science Lab. The Fisheries Department of WA has been providing a free incursion for all of our students from PP – Year 6.

Bringing the Beach to You: Students have had many examples of beach plant and animal life brought to the lab so that they could practice their classifying skills. The “hands on” sea algae, sponges and sea animals activities for many students has been a new experience. All students have learned about many plants and animals that in the past they may just walked over on the beach without noticing. There have been many misconceptions corrected such as learning that sea sponges are actually animals and many interesting facts – did you know that the cuttlefish can change colour to camouflage into its environment. The cuttlefish bone we often find on the beach aids its buoyancy.

Sustainable Seas: Students have taken part in fishing activities where they have realised the importance of rules that protect our aquatic life. There are size limits, bag limits, licences for some types of fishing, times of the year when fishing such as abalone fishing is allowed and closed seasons such as when fish like pink snapper are breeding. Did you know that the daily bag limit for Australian herring has recently been reduced to 12 and the minimum size limit for the West Australian Dhufish is 50cm?

Fish Dissection: Year 6 students have had the opportunity to experience the work of real fisheries scientists who dissect fish to learn more about the species, the age of species in certain areas and information about the age that fish reproduce to assist in maintaining healthy fish populations in Western Australia. This has been a unique experience for all the year 6s. There were many positive comments such as “this is gross but so cool!”.

Did you know that fish are aged by looking at their ear bones or otoliths? Aging can be done by counting the growth rings in a cross section of the otoliths.

Many thanks to Linda and Laurie from the Fisheries Department of WA for providing an amazing week in Science.

Sherryl Crouch
Science Specialist
MUSIC UPDATE

Kaboom Percussion Incursion next week—30th March.

Percussionists Josh Webster and Catherine Hall are coming to the school on Monday to give two concerts. We are looking forward to being musically inspired by our talented guests. Normal classes will stop for the hour so that students can enjoy the concert. Please check out Kaboom Percussion online at kaboompercussion.com

ANZAC ASSEMBLY WEEK 1 TERM 2

This Year’s ANZAC Assembly will be held on the 24th of April. Students from Room 26 and the Senior Choir will be hosting the assembly. Senior Choir will be fitted for music uniforms for this performance some time next week. Please keep an eye out for a note regarding Senior Choir’s performance. This note will go out next week.

Thank you everyone for a great first term. This is my last newsletter entry for the year. I wish you all a great rest of the year with some fun music making. I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2016.

Kate Graham
Music Specialist

Today our Year 5 and 6 students looked very smart as they headed off for their interschool carnival. They were wearing their new interschool sports uniforms kindly donated by our P&C.

We would like to thank the P&C for this generous donation and we wish our students well as they compete with local schools.

WHAT TIME DOES YOUR CHILD GET TO SCHOOL IN THE MORNING?

If your child does not have a before school supervised activity, your child should not be at school till 8.15 am. Supervision is only provided in the undercover area from 8.15 am and students are required to wait in the undercover area until the bell rings at 8.30 am. Some children are coming to school far too early and we have children waiting in the undercover area from as early as 7.00 am. This simply is not safe as there is no supervision and also it is far too long for a child to have to wait in the undercover area, especially as the weather becomes cooler and the mornings get darker.

If you need to go to work early please make arrangements for off site care for your child prior to 8.15 am.
Culture Club

Culture Club focused on Chinese food at the last get together. Students had the opportunity to toss and taste "Yee Sang". This healthy vegetable dish consisted of finely sliced lettuce, carrots, and red cabbage, together with a plum sauce. The tossing signifies good luck! Together with "Fried Kuay Teow" and "Fried Chinese Noodles".

The students were shown how to use chopsticks to try the different dishes. Some students found this quite challenging! Chinese food is extremely varied, so the food at Culture Club was only a small taste! Many thanks to the parents who cooked food, and/or came along to help at Culture Club. Culture Club meets for the final time this term on March 27th. If any parents who have a Chinese background are interested in helping at Culture Club, I would love to hear from you.

Margot Evans (EAL Teacher)

In case of an emergency ONLY during this time, contact the following clinics:

- 7/4/15 & 8/4/15 Bannister Creek DTC 8am- 4pm Ph: 9451 1761
- 9/4/15 Willetton DTC is OPEN 8am- 4pm Ph: 9457 4624
- 10/4/15 South Thornlie DTC 8am- 4pm Ph: 9459 4270
- 13/4/15-16/4/15 Riverton DTC 8am -4pm Ph:9457 5262
- 17/4/15 Campbell DTC 8:15am-4:30pm Ph: 9455 6322

Outside working hours you may contact 9325 3452 or your local private dentist.

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**Triple P - POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM**

**SEMINAR SERIES**

Triple P Parenting Seminars are available to all parents of children attending K to 6.

Parents may attend one, two or all three seminars.

- Seminar 1: The Power of Positive Parenting
- Seminar 2: How to Raise Confident and Competent Children
- Seminar 3: How to Raise Resilient Children

The seminars provide useful knowledge and strategies for parents to promote their children's development, independence and their relationships with other children and adults. This has clear benefits for a child’s adjustment, and achievement in the school setting.

Parents will be invited to attend the FREE seminars to learn:

- Effective parenting strategies
- Ways to encourage positive behaviour
- How to promote their child’s development
- Practical, effective ways to prevent or manage common child behaviour concerns.

Each two hour seminar includes a presentation and an open discussion and question time.

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**Coming To Burrendah Primary in Term 2**

Keep an eye out for seminar dates

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**OUT OF SCHOOL STAR**

Congratulations to our school captain Corey Warner who over the weekend participated in the State Championships for Little Athletics at Challenge Stadium. His results were:

- Gold medal for Javelin
- Gold medal for High Jump
- Silver medal for Triple Jump
OUT OF SCHOOL STARS

Samantha Young and Lilah Floyd participated at the Sunday Times Chillout Tadpoles Triathalon held on March 8th at Trinity College.

Great effort girls.

Survey Response : We had some feedback requesting the opportunity for senior students to have the same sort of specialist Visual Arts experiences as the Year 1 -4 students.

Mrs Ebsworthy’s Response: As most parents will be aware prior to 2015 we have had a Visual Arts Specialist program for our Years 1-4 students only. Mrs Eitzen has taught that program and also promoted Visual Arts across the whole school community. It is also important for parents to understand that primary school teachers are generalists and are trained and prepared to teach all learning areas and where a specialist program is not offered the classroom teacher will take the responsibility for that learning area.

Primary schools are not funded to have specialist teachers in all areas and it is at the discretion of the Principal and teaching staff as to the specialist programs offered. However, it must also be noted that these specialist programs provide the required four hours of DOTT (release time for duties other than face to face teaching) for all classroom teaching staff.

In 2014 Burrendah has offered specialist programs in Visual Arts (1-4), Music (1-7), Science (1-7), Physical Education (1-7) and Italian (5-7). However in 2015 with the movement of the year seven students to secondary school, we have expanded these specialist programs to include Pre Primary students in the Visual Arts, Music, Science and Physical Education specialist programs. We have also extended the Visual Arts program to include our Year 5 and 6 students. Ms Patton who is a talented artist and experienced teacher is now implementing a specialist Visual Arts program for our Year 6 students in semester one and our Year 5 students for semester two. These year five and six students now access one semester of specialist Music and one semester working with Ms Patton doing Visual Arts. By doing this we have given our students the opportunity to have exposure to both Arts learning areas. Yes in an ideal world we would love to offer these senior students a whole year of Music and Visual Arts but unfortunately our funding does not allow this.

As referred to in our last school newsletter and as recommended by our School Board our Principal will be responding to comments and questions from our 2014 Parent Survey.
Vanuatu Cyclone Pam Appeal

Wednesday
1 April 2015

The Year 6 Student Leaders Fundraising Committee are organising an appeal to raise money to support the victims of the devastating effects of Cyclone Pam, in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu Islands.

Many people have lost everything – their homes and everything in it! Funds raised will be directed to World Vision, who is focussing on food, water, sanitation & hygiene, education, shelter, protection and communications. Burrendah Primary School has always been very generous in supporting those in need.

So let’s dig deep to support this important cause.
Gold Coin Donation

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2015/2016 Entertainment Books P&C Fundraiser

Coming soon


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BURRENDAH PRIMARY P&C MEETING

The next P&C meeting will be held Monday 30th March at 7pm in the school hall. All parents are welcome to attend. During this meeting you will hear all about our fundraising activities for the year. I look forward to seeing you there.

David Cherry - P&C President

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BURRENBITE UPDATE

“Have you seen the latest canteen menu with cheaper prices? Check your emails or ask at the canteen for a hard copy of our new menu”

For example we now serve beef and vegetable lasagne for only $4.60 order some now.

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SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

NOW OPEN

THURSDAY

8:15am TILL 8:35am

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Second Hand Uniform Shop

NOW OPEN

THURSDAY

8:15am TILL 8:35am

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Grasshopper Soccer

Are now taking enrolments for the upcoming Holiday Programs and Term 2 Centres. Join Australia’s number one non-competitive soccer program to improve your soccer skills in a social and fun environment! Call up to find out about a FREE TRIAL! To find out more call 0451 172 877 or email info@grasshoppersoccer.com.au

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Diary Dates

27th March
Faction Assembly

27th March
EAL Parent Network Group

1st April
Vanuatu Cyclone Pam Appeal

1st April
Special Winning Faction Lunch

2nd April
Last Day Term One

20th April
First Day Term 2

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