As a school I am fortunate to have the support of a very functional School Board, capably led by our School Board Chair Dr Barb Frey. I feel supported in my leadership role and I value the feedback given. At our first meeting for the year two of our parent representatives Serena Whisson and Samantha Newman shared a summary of the feedback gained from the school surveys conducted last year. I encourage you to read the summary provided by Samantha and Serena in today’s newsletter and I look forward to responding to the comments and feedback given by parents through future inserts in the school newsletter. Summaries of both the parent and student surveys are available from the office should you be interested. May I assure you that the results from these survey have been reviewed and reflected upon by myself and Mr Bradshaw and where appropriate an action plan has been put in place.

As a Principal I value feedback from the school community and in addition to the survey feedback I appreciate the fact parents take the time to send me emails and make a time to meet with me. Thank you for your interest and feedback. I endeavour to respond in a timely manner. At times I receive anonymous letters from parents outlining a concern and in this situation it is impossible to respond directly to the concerns expressed. Recently I received an anonymous letter outlining concerns from a parent that other adults from outside the school were working in our school without having the required Working with Children Check (WWC). If a parent or other family member is working with students that include their own children, under the direction of a teacher, we only require the parents/family members to complete our school ‘Confidentiality Form’, however, should the person be a community volunteer or paid employee (such as our school chaplain) working on a regular basis in our school, that person must show us their current WWC card and those details are retained. We are fortunate to have many people who donate their time generously to our school and I thank them sincerely for their valuable assistance. I assure the parent who had concerns about whether volunteers in our school had the required WWC documentation that protocols and administrative practices are in place to ensure anyone working in our school on an ongoing voluntary capacity do have the appropriate screening checks.

A very big thank you for your support of the World Vision Levi McGrath Concert held last week. We raised $465.60 for World Vision through the gold coin donations on the day. Thank you for once again giving so generously to this worthy cause.

I will be on leave this Friday and will miss our first community assembly for this year but I encourage you to attend as rooms 10 and 19 entertain, inform and lead the school. We thank them sincerely for volunteering to organise our first assembly for 2015.

Enjoy the extra family time made available to you through this long weekend and I will look forward to seeing staff and students return to school on Tuesday 3rd March.

Jayne Ebsworth
26th February 2015
On Tuesday the 17th of February, all the Year Six students went on their Year Six Camp to Point Walter. I was so excited when I came to school that day. We left school on the bus and soon arrived at Point Walter Recreation Centre.

We put our bags in a hall and went straight away to our first activity which was archery. It was much harder than it looked on movies.

Soon after that, we went paddling. We had to wear personal flotation devices (PFD’s) just in case we fell into the water. We had to use a lot of muscles to actually move the boat but it was still loads of fun.

I was really excited for the next activity... THE FLYING FOX! It was probably my favourite activity. It was fun and really exciting. I LOVED IT. I had three turns on it and then we went to our new dorms.

I was in a dorm with Amelia, Jaydine and Elly. We had our own dorm bathroom (which was good). I had a shower, made my bed and settled in to my dorm. After showers we had two hours of free time which we played volleyball and talked.

The two hours zoomed by and soon it was dinner. We had roast beef, vegetables and salad. It was actually quite nice. After dinner we had a quiz night. My team was called ACELJE and my team members were Jaydine, Elly, Jaimee, Louise and Amelia. Our team was winning all the way through until the final round. We lost by one point. It was the easiest question ever and we got it wrong! Never mind- at least we still had fun. We went to bed at 9:30pm and talked.

The next morning we got up at 7:00am and had breakfast. We had eggs, bacon, hash browns and cereal. We had team games after which involved a lot of team work and using your brain a lot.

Soon it was time for morning tea. We had some fruit and a muffin. YUM! Then we had abseiling. I was petrified at first but soon loved it. We had to put on our harness and helmets again for climbing. We had to climb up a rope, ladder, some logs and tyres. I climbed three and got up to the top each time. Then we had afternoon tea which was followed by pool games. We had to make a raft with noodles which would float and carrying our whole team across the pool. We were soaking wet after that so we went to our dorms for a shower. We had dinner which was a chicken, vegetable, rice and salad. We watched some plays and performances by the Year 6’s followed by the movie “Night at the Museum 2.” Everyone was feeling tired when we went to bed.

The following day we got up feeling sad because it was the last day at camp. Breakfast was the same as yesterday’s but we didn’t mind because there was so much to choose from.

We cleaned out our dorms and made sure we didn’t leave anything behind. We went to our first activity of the day which was crate climbing. The next activity was raft building. Our team made a good raft. Rafting was quite fun.

Sadly, we were up to our last event, orienteering. I was in a trio with Elly and Jaydine and it was called Crazy Kids. We had to find special trees using a map of the camp and locate a stamp to prove we had found each station. My team managed to find 10 stations, which was good. Our parents came to pick us up and we went home.

I loved camp. It was the best thing ever. Camp taught me to always try something and face your fears because you never know until you try.

By Chenuli Rm 4

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**Year 6 Camp**

The Year 6 Camp held at Point Walter Recreation Centre was once again very successful with an exciting and challenging array of activities organized by our teachers and Youth, Sport and Recreation staff. These activities were not only fun but encouraged and reinforced team work and in some cases involved over coming student’s fears.

This camp requires a great deal of planning and long hours of supervision for teachers over the week. Given this, I’d like thank Mrs Crouch for organizing the camp which ran very smoothly and the teachers - Mrs Bell, Mr Heron, Ms Patton, Ms McLay and Mr Crouch for their commitment to ensuring a safe and enjoyable camp for all those involved.

Phil Bradshaw – Associate Principal

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Phil Bradshaw – Associate Principal
Room 16b Celebrate Chinese New Year

The students from Room 16b have been celebrating the Chinese New Year. The celebrations started with Jackson’s mum, Mrs Yin, treating us to a feast of dumplings on Thursday and following this up with fried rice on Friday. To top this off Mrs Raj brought us in some special sponge cakes and sent in packets containing colourful erasers for all the children.

On Friday the children had the opportunity to wear their completed dragon masks, which can be seen in the picture to the right. Over the week this theme provided the children with a great cultural and community experience.

EAL PARENT NETWORK GROUP

We will be meeting on the following dates, in the EAL Room:

- Friday, 27th February (after assembly)
- Friday, 13th March at 9.00am
- Friday, 27th March at 9.00 am

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new Mums and Dads and to learn what is happening in the school.

At our first meeting we will be asking what focus areas you would like us to include at the meetings. We can then provide workshops to cover these and organise guest speakers to accommodate your needs, where appropriate.

We would love to see all the new parents in our school, as well as all our existing EAL parents.

Harmony Day

On Friday, 20th March Burrendah will be celebrating Harmony Day.

This is a national celebration across Australia when we celebrate the diverse cultures that together make up our country of Australia. It is a time when we reflect the theme that “Everyone Belongs”.

There will be a community assembly commencing at 8.45am. This is always a very colourful and happy occasion with many of our children dressed in their national dress.

Students are invited to wear their cultural dress on this special day. This is not a free dress day.

Family Picnic - 1.05 – 1.50 pm

Parents, grandparents and extended family members are invited to join us for a family picnic on the grass under the shade of the trees. Bring a picnic rug and some of your yummy food to share with your child/ren.
Our Science Super Sleuth competition has begun again. Every Monday a Science Question of the Week is placed on the door to the science lab. Students who wish to participate have the whole week to find the answer to the question. The first student to bring the answer to Mrs Crouch earns a star worth 2 points. Every other student who discovers the answer to share with Mrs Crouch earns a 1 point sticker. All students who participate in the competition have their “Super Science Sleuth Star” placed on our Super Science Sleuth board in the science lab. Last year’s completion was very close. Both our junior and senior winner earned a prize of a family pass to Scitech. Check out the question each week and become a super science sleuth.

Our stick insects have grown over the holidays more than doubling in size. Our students can now see for themselves why they are called stick insects and see first-hand the advantage of camouflage.

This Friday the whole school will be taking part in Clean up Australia by checking that our school grounds are clean and litter free. If your family wants to be involved in the Clean-up Australia campaign on Sunday 1st March, details can be found on their website http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/. There are several venues close to Willetton where you can offer your assistance and keep our community clean.

Many thanks to the parents who volunteered to help re-establish our vegetable garden. We will keep you posted on the progress of the gardens.

Sherryl Crouch
Science Specialist
MUSIC UPDATE

It is not too late to join our choirs and ensembles. All you have to do is turn up. Next week will be the last week to get your name on the list.

Yr 6 Chamber String Ensemble  Monday in the Music Room at 7:45 am. All String players from Year 6 are welcome to attend. Students that learn a string instrument outside school are more than welcome to join us, provided that they have been learning their instrument for a couple of years.

Senior Choir is for students from Years 4 – 6 and is held on Tuesdays in the Music Room at 7:45 am. All students from these year groups are welcome.

String Orchestra is compulsory for students from Years 5-6 who are learning a string instrument at school. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:30 am in the Hall. Year 4 violin students will also be participating in orchestra this year, however, they will not be required to attend until they receive an invite from their instrumental teacher. Students that learn a string instrument outside school are more than welcome to join us, provided that they have been learning their instrument for a couple of years.

Junior Choir is for students from Years 1 – 3 and is on a Thursday in the Music Room at 7:45 am. All students from these year groups are welcome.

Guitar Ensemble after school: Matt Keesing runs a contemporary guitar ensemble in the Music Room on a Monday after school from 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm. Anyone can join as long as you are receiving formal lessons and have been learning guitar for at least one year. You also require your own instrument. Due to Mr Keesing running his business privately at the school, there is a fee of $12 per class. The class will run on the condition that there are enough numbers to form an ensemble. For further details and enrolments please contact Matt Keesing at mattkeesing@hotmail.com.

Matt also gives private guitar lessons after school in the music room.

PIANO AUDITIONS FOR ENSEMBLES
We will require an exceptional student pianist to accompany our various ensembles and choirs throughout the year. This student will have to be a quick sight reader, able to attend rehearsals and performances as well as be able to learn music fairly quickly. The audition music will be available on Friday (27th of Feb) in the Music Room and it will be placed in the purple tray. The audition music will consist of samples of music that the student will be expected to play if they are successful in passing the audition. Please note that we are looking for an advanced student pianist.

The auditions will be held in the Music Room on Friday the 6th of March during lunch time.

Kate Graham
Music Specialist
School Board Notes

Board Meeting 1 – Tues 17 February 2015

This month’s School Board meeting was held by candlelight due to a power pole problem on Pine Tree Gully beside the school. The Board reviewed all comments made by parents, students and teachers in the annual school survey conducted before Christmas. These surveys are always reviewed by the Board in detail. Comments from all quarters were overwhelmingly positive. A summary of feedback from parents and teachers is provided elsewhere in this newsletter by Sam Newman and Serena Whisson, two parent representatives on the Board who conducted the survey. Mrs Ebsworthy will be reporting to the parent community from time to time what actions are being taken in response to some categories of feedback received through the survey.

The Board reviewed aspects of small group teaching of literacy and numeracy skills, for example, guided reading. This was presented by Mrs Chatfield who is the English Curriculum Specialist and a member of the Board. She described how small groups of students read together according to their skill, and how skill is developed as student move from activities like guided reading led by the teacher to independent time spent reading and writing. This is based on a well-established research-based strategy which the school adopted several years ago and which applies to all years. This approach builds phonological awareness, skill with phonics and helps with spelling and writing. Students then work on comprehension and higher order thinking skills. Guided reading is specifically a strategy in the school’s Business Plan because in past NAPLAN results, some year 5 cohorts of students had not been progressing as well as they might. For example, even though some students may read at the level of high school students, we still want them to continue growing and developing the skills they have. Last year’s NAPLAN’s results showed clear movement in this regard.

Next month’s Board meeting will review collaboration with other local schools on program like Italian, and also professional learning of staff. This is part of the Board’s routine and progressive review of how the school is tracking against its Business Plan. It is also in preparation for the school’s first IPS Independent Public School review which is scheduled to take place in June this year.

Barb Frey
Board Chair
A Message from the Parent Board Members

Thank you to all those parents who took the time to complete the annual school survey in Term 4 2014. As reported in previous school newsletters, the results were overwhelmingly positive.

The school also surveyed students and teachers. We took some time over the Christmas break to review the comments made by parents and students in relation to Burrendah Primary School’s strengths, and what the school could do better. The comments were quite varied, but there were some common themes.

**Parent Survey**

In terms of the strengths of Burrendah Primary School, a significant number of parents commented on

- The diverse and multicultural nature of the school
- The quality of the staff at Burrendah: the teachers, Principal, administration and other staff
- Leadership at the school
- The academic, music and other programs
- Communication between school and home
- The great school community

In terms of what the school could do better the highest frequency comments from parents related to

- The provision of before and after school care
- Improved communication between school and home
- Improved quality and variety of canteen food
- Improvement in the running of school assemblies given the large number of students.

**Student Survey**

Comments made by students in their survey made it clear that what students like the most about Burrendah Primary School is their teachers and their friends. Other things a significant number of students said they liked were

- Feeling safe and happy
- The learning environment and programs, in particular sport, music, science and art
- The school canteen
- Excursions and incursions

With regard to what the school could improve on, the most common student responses were

- Clean the playground/school
- More play and sports equipment
- More library books
- Cleaner/improved toilets
- Reduce bullying
- More sport/exercise time
- Improved quality and range of canteen food
- More play/lunch time

For those parents keen to read more, a full copy of the 2014 survey parent and student comments is available from the office.

The school really appreciates this feedback from parents and students. Throughout the year our school Principal Jayne Ebsworthy will respond to the comments parents and students made about where the school could improve by including a section in each school newsletter addressing one of the issues raised. Please look out for these inserts in future newsletters.

Amanda, Grant, Sam and Serena

Parent School Board Members
Dental Screening
During the Year, the Dental Team from the WILLETTON Dental Therapy Centre will be visiting the school to carry out Dental Screening of Pre-Primary, Year 3 and Year 6 Children.

For Year 3 and Year 6 children this is a simple procedure where disposable pop sticks are used to retract the cheeks to allow the Dental Officer to see how the teeth have developed. As a result of this, the Dental Officer may request to speak to the Parents/Guardians of some children. In most cases this will be to discuss Orthodontic considerations.

Children whose parents have not given consent for treatment under the School Dental Service will not be examined.

For Pre-primary Children, screening involves talking to the class as a group and then conducting a simple examination. All the children have to do is to open their mouths and then smile at the Dental Officer. They then receive a sticker.

If you have any concerns regarding Screening, please contact the Therapy Centre between 3:30pm and 4pm, Monday to Friday on 9457 4624.

PROMOTING ORAL HEALTH AND TEETH FOR LIFE

Parents please do not send your children to school with nuts or nut pastes in their lunchbox.

Some of our students have serious life threatening allergies to nuts.

We value your support in this matter.

TERM DATES FOR 2015
Term 1
School resumes - **Monday 2nd February 2015**
Last day of term - Thursday 2 April 2015

Term 2
School resumes - **Monday 20th April 2015**
School Closure - Tuesday 30th June (PM) (Parent/Teacher Meetings)
Last day of term - Friday 3 July 2015

Term 3
School resumes - **Tuesday 21 July 2015**
Last day of term - Friday 25 September 2015

Term 4
School resumes - **Wednesday 14th October 2015**
Last day of term - Thursday 17th December 2015

OUT OF SCHOOL STAR

Jessica Cherry, Year 3, Room 21 attended the Willetton Basketball school holidays camp in January.

Jessica received a trophy for being the runner up in the free throw competition. Jessica was surprised but very proud to win the trophy. Well done Jessica.

If your child is a Out of School Star please email burrendah.ps@education.wa.edu.au with details.

Diary Dates

27th February Community Assembly Rms 10 & 19
2nd March Labour Day Public Holiday
4th March Swimming Trials
10th March Student Leadership Conference
18th March Swimming Carnival Yrs 4-6
20th March Community Assembly Rms 22 & 23
26th March Yrs 5&6 Interschool Carnival
2nd April Last Day Term One