EVENTS AT A GLANCE

March

Friday 14  No Friday run
Whole School Excursion - Moss Vale Show
Monday 17  Annual General P & C Meeting
Thursday 20 Year 4/5/6 Excursion to ABC studios Ultimo
Friday 21  Berrima Carpathon all week-end
Tuesday 25  Author visit - Nette Hilton
Thursday 27  Police visit - K-2
Friday 28  No Friday run
School Cross Country
Monday 31  Year 6 Young Leaders Day Conference Sydney

Schools Clean Up Day
Fortunately the weather was on our side on Friday morning after recess and we were able to go ahead with our school clean up. Year 2/3 very enthusiastically took on a clean-up of the cross country track. We were very impressed that there was very little rubbish around this area. This is especially the case considering that we missed last year’s clean up due to wet weather.

Kindy and Year 1 worked hard around the playground. Year 1 put in a fine effort, to beautify the area adjacent to their classroom. This will be an on-going project.
Year 3/4 carried out their usual task of cleaning around the streets at the top of the school and the nature reserve diagonally opposite the school.

Unfortunately Year 4/5/6 were unable to carry out their clean up due to the thunder storm that came through on Friday afternoon.
Better Buddies

Last Monday children in Year 4/5 teamed up with the children in Kindergarten. It was the first day of our Better Buddies program. The older children had been assigned a buddy and we all went to Mr. Paviour's to meet up and with our new buddies. The older children assisted the younger ones to work through a road safety activity. At the end of the activity the older buddies presented each of the kindergarten children with a Better Buddy Bear. These will be kept at school for a Teddy Bears Picnic later in the term.

It was interesting to note that at lunchtime, which followed the time together quite a number of the children teamed up and had lunch with their new buddy. Hopefully in the future the kindergarten children will feel confident enough to approach their buddy if they needed some assistance in the playground. It is planned that there will be activities where the children will be working together with their buddy.

Moss Vale Show

All the children have been working hard preparing their entries for Moss Vale Show. Kimo and students in Year 3/4 harvested the giant pumpkin last Friday. Regrettably we were informed by the show that there is no longer an event for the heaviest, biggest pumpkin. So we will have our own pumpkin competition here at school, "WATCH THIS SPACE"..........

All the other children have been putting the finishing touches to their art work that will be entered in the school exhibits. This coming Friday we are all looking forward to travelling to Moss Vale Show Ground to take in the atmosphere and all the fun of the show.
UNSW Competition

Every year students in years 3-6 are eligible to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for school. The ICAS provides an opportunity for students to experience an external testing situation. This also provides teachers, parents and students with results in the areas of Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. The tests are an excellent preparation for the national tests and the student report is useful for highlighting your child’s strengths and weaknesses.

This is not compulsory. If your child is interested in this competition please complete the expression of interest form below and hand it into the office. All notes need to be in by the 24 March.

I would like my child .............................................to sit for;

☐ Computer skills $8.80
☐ Science $8.80
  ☐ Writing $18.70
☐ Spelling $12.10
☐ English $8.80
☐ Mathematics $8.80

* if more than 3 entries per subject the school receives a rebate.

School Banking

This term Commonwealth School Banking is running a competition to win a marquee for school sports day. Entry is limited to schools in the South Coast and Highlands region and is run on percentage basis. As our school has one of the highest percentages of “bankers” WE ARE IN THE RUNNING TO WIN!!!. All we need is for each child with an active account to make a deposit this term.

So collect up your pocket money, look for that spare change behind the lounge or in the console of dad’s car and deposit it next week. Each deposit you make the bank donates 5% of the deposit amount to the school. Great way to raise money for our school. Every student who completes a minimum of 3 school banking deposits in Term 1 will also be in the running to win one of two $50 credits to their School Banking account.

Kitchen News

We have been busy in 4/5/6 class making preserves for Moss Vale Show. This is the first time we have entered so it will be a learning curve for us all.

Last week we made Lemongrassade which was a winner. Some of the kids thought it was “too minty”. Following this page is the recipe of the week, so alter as you need to if you want to make it.

Debra Hebbard
Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Specialist
Berrima Public School
Lemongrassade

Fresh from the garden: lemongrass, lemons, mint

Recipe Source: Alawa Primary School, Northern Territory
This is a delightful variation on the traditional lemonade usually made with lemons, sugar and water. The flavourings and method used here would make a much more interesting lemonade or ‘limeade’ if lemongrass isn’t available.

Equipment:
kettle for boiling water
non-slip mat chopping board large knife wooden spoon
large heat-proof bowl or stock pot
grater lemon juicer
large plate to cover bowl sieve
large jugs or punch bowl for serving

Ingredients:
8 stalks lemongrass
1 piece ginger, about 5 cm
40 mint leaves
6 lemons
8 green tea bags 1 cup honey
3 L hot water & 2 L cold water
fresh ice and lemon slices, for serving

What to do:

Turn the kettle on to boil the water.
Set up the chopping board with a non-slip mat to keep it from slipping.
Cut the dry root end of each of the lemongrass stalks and trim off the top half (save these tops for stir sticks). Remove any damaged or brown outer leaves and place them in the compost bin.

Cut each lemongrass stalk into 4 pieces.

Using the back of a wooden spoon, bruise the lemongrass pieces by giving them a whack or a hard press.

Place the lemongrass pieces into the stockpot or very large heat-proof bowl.
Peel and coarsely grate the ginger into the bowl.
Wash the mint and pluck the leaves off the stems.
Juice the lemons and add tea bags, lemon juice, mint leaves and honey to the large bowl.

* Ask an adult to help you to pour the boiling water into the large bowl. (You may need to boil the kettle more than once.)

Cover the stockpot with a lid or the bowl with a large plate.

Leave the mixture to steep for 20 minutes, then add another 2 L cold water.

Strain the punch through the sieve into your jug or punch bowl and serve with ice and fresh slices of lemon. Chill if you have time. Carefully measure 150ml into each glass & serve.

* Adult supervision required.
Some of the goodies we purchased!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the generous families who donated via our Kitchen Garden Giving Tree. We have been able to buy lots of goodies we needed for the kitchen and garden, which we otherwise could not have afforded. The children and staff very much appreciate the practical benefit and also the feeling of being supported by our wonderful school community.

Light at the end of the tunnel

This coming Friday afternoon I will be travelling to Sydney University to watch my daughter’s graduation. Alex completed her Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education. It is a very gratifying feeling to experience the satisfaction of someone you have nurtured through their childhood, seen them progress through primary and high school. Alex is 27 now and has gained employment in the childcare industry.

So for those with children in kindergarten at the moment it is a long process to work through the education system to finally emerge and gain employment.
Markets

A big thank you to all the parents that helped out at the Berrima School Markets, which was held yesterday. It was lovely to see the kindy parents helping out on the BBQ. Thank you for your time. There was fresh lemonade being made in the kitchen which was very popular. There were also new stall holders which is always encouraging. We are looking forward to seeing them next month. A big thank you to James and Danielle Brooker, Lonni Bedson, and Callie Sims for helping out all day.

Berrima Public School P&C Annual General Meeting – Monday 17th March

Our AGM will be held next Monday night at 7.30pm in the music room next to the office. All parents and carers of students enrolled at the school are eligible to be members of the school’s P&C Association. Parents, Carers and citizens must pay the membership fee of $2 to become a financial member of the P&C. All financial members have the right to stand for office, move motions and vote.

As I have been in the position of President for the last 3 years I will be standing down from this role. Please think about becoming involved in the running of the P&C, it does require a commitment but this load can usually be shared with other committee members and parents within the school. For more information about the role of the P&C within a school look at the website www.pandc.org.au. If you have any questions about any of the roles please call or email me, I would be happy to chat.

Megan Moore
0413 482 731
Moorefamily21@bigpond.com

The P&C Executive Committee consists of the associations office bearers:

- President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer
- In addition to these executive roles are the following positions:
  - Uniform Shop manager
  - Uniform Shop Treasurer
  - Fundraising Co-ordinator

At the P&C meeting on Monday night all positions will be declared vacant and elections will be held for office bearers. The positions available are listed below with a brief summary of responsibilities:

- President
  - Responsibilities:
    - Successful functioning of the P&C
    - The attainment of the P&C’s objectives
    - Ensuring that the P&C takes part in decision-making processes in the school
    - Fostering fair participation of all members and ensuring that all new members are made to feel welcome
    - Supporting volunteers
    - Consistent adherence to the constitution
    - Acting as the P&C’s spokesperson when public statements or actions are needed
    - Setting up lines of communication with the Principal
    - Being a signatory on the P&C’s bank accounts
    - Chairing meetings
P & C NEWS CON‘T

♦ Vice president
♦ Responsibilities:
♦ Providing support for the President and all other members of the Executive committee
♦ Chair meetings when the President is absent

♦ Secretary
♦ Prepares agenda for meetings
♦ Prepare and present the minutes of the Association’s meetings
♦ Record and deal with ingoing and outgoing correspondence
♦ Record and maintain information pertaining to the activities of the P&C

♦ Treasurer
♦ Overall responsibility for the financial management of the P&C, including all subcommittee accounts
♦ Prepare an annual budget and plan for the P&C in consultation with the executive committee
♦ Keep accurate records of receipts and expenditure

♦ Uniform Shop Manager
♦ Maintains and control inventory
♦ Orders stock when needed
♦ Sets the pricing for items in stock
♦ Opens the shop to the school community and assists with uniform enquiries

♦ Uniform Shop Treasurer
♦ Responsible for invoices and payments for purchases made for the Uniform shop
♦ Manages the funds/accounts for Uniform shop

♦ Fundraising Co-ordinator
♦ Develops and implements ideas within the school community to assist with raising funds for
♦ Berrima Public School
♦ Enlists support and ideas from other parents to help with fundraising
♦ An agenda for this meeting will be sent home on Monday in the newsletter. If you have any agenda items please email them to Jane Lawler at corneyconstructions@bigpond.com.au by Sunday 16th March to ensure they will be included.
♦ We look forward to seeing you next Monday night.
PARENT/CAREGIVER CONSENT FORM

All Berrima students will be attending the Moss Vale Show, held on Friday 14 March, at Moss Vale Showground.

We will be travelling by bus to the showground leaving at 9:30am and returning in time for the afternoon school bus. The total cost of this excursion is $5.00.

All the staff of Berrima Public School will be accompanying this excursion and all have emergency training.

The children will need to wear their red uniform and a hat. Please also provide a packed lunch with a drink bottle that can be refilled. The children will be able to buy an ice cream on the day. We will NOT allow the children to buy show bags or participate in any side show rides.

RETURN SLIP

I do / do not consent to ___________________________ of class __________
attending the Moss Vale Show on Friday 14 March 2014.

I do / do not give permission for my child to travel by bus.

I do / do not give permission for my child to receive medical treatment in case of an emergency.

Signed: ___________________________ Print Name: ___________________________

Date: _______________ Daytime Phone number: ___________________________

I enclose $ 5.00 cash / cheque / direct deposit. BSB-032-001 A/C - 116917

If you’re wishing to direct deposit please make sure you enter your name and the name of the excursion so that your deposit can be identified.
In 2001 the Government introduced the ‘First Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

If you have ANY child that was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $12,500 of entitlement.

The government has a 30 June 2014 deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au today to receive more information.

Twelve Chartered Accountants    ABN 61 712 659 747
www.twelve.com.au    Principal: Derek Nolan CA

Your Family Tax Specialist
NSW parents in world-first project

A new project launched by University of Sydney offers two years of free parenting support to parents and caregivers of children with a disability in New South Wales.

Parents and caregivers are invited to go to www.mysay.org.au to fill in a survey and register for free parenting support under the Stepping Stones Triple P (SSTP) Project.

Health and education professionals who work in the child disability field can also complete the survey and apply for free Stepping Stones training and resources.

The University of Sydney's chair of Mental Health Professor Stewart Einfeld from the Faculty of Health Sciences launched the project at the Helping Families Change Conference in Sydney.

Professor Einfeld said the SSTP project aimed to reduce high levels of emotional and behavioural problems in children with a disability by providing parents with more support.

"Children with developmental disabilities, such as autism spectrum disorders, Fragile X and Down syndrome experience three to four times the emotional and behavioural problems of typically developing children," Professor Einfeld said.

"This has an enormous impact on parents, and understandably many struggle to cope with the daily demands of raising their child and the extra challenges it involves."

The SSTP Project offers free parenting sessions through Stepping Stones, which is a Triple P - Positive Parenting Program for parents of children with a disability. A 2007 study found 71 percent of children with a developmental disability showed substantial behaviour improvement after their parents completed a Stepping Stones program.

The three-state SSTP Project is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia, and is being rolled out in NSW, Queensland and Victoria.