EVENTS AT A GLANCE

June

Wednesday 11  Conservation Volunteers Working Bee
Thursday 12   Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal—Bowral
Friday 13     No Friday run
             Bong Bong Athletics Carnival—Eridge Park
Monday 16     University Writing Competition
             P & C Meeting 9:10 a.m.
             National Buddying Together Day
Tuesday 17    University Spelling Competition
Thursday 19   Lantern Walk
Friday 20     Stephanie Alexander Course—Berrima
Thursday 26   Festival Of Instrumental Music—Sydney Opera House
Friday 27     End of term Assembly 1:30 p.m. (Blue Uniform)

Seven, ate Nine!
Where does the time go?

The term is gathering pace. Week 7 is shorter, then time devours weeks eight and nine. This week we see the Conservation Volunteers return to work at our school and on Friday there is the Bong Bong Small Schools Athletics Carnival. A reminder for parents wanting their child to participate in the 800 metre event, children will need to meet me at Eridge Park by 9 a.m.

Thank you to all those who have brought in newspaper. However, we still needs loads of newspaper to spread under mulch if you have a collection at home. Any parents interested in helping out on that day would also be most welcome. Please let Belinda know if you are coming along to help out so we can add you to our numbers for lunch.

Preparations also continue for Lantern Walk which comes along the following week. The school will then be looking its best for the visit by the Stephanie Alexander team and course attendees.

Week 9 has the Festival of Instrumental Music with the Recorder Ensemble performing at Sydney Opera House. I am really looking forward to their concert. The next day at school we have the end of term assembly beginning at 1:30p.m. I know there will be a number of items performed at this assembly. Again, another performance to I am looking forward.

Conservation Volunteers Working Bee

Year 4/5/6 children will be assisting with the work to be completed at the working bee and because of this they are permitted to wear older clothes and work shoes/gumboots tomorrow. A wet weather jacket might also be useful.
Semester One Reports

Teachers are currently working on student evaluation and end of semester reports. They will be finalised in the coming week and prepared for distribution on Wednesday June 25. At the beginning of term 3 there will be student led conferences.

P & C Meeting Guest Speaker

The next P & C meeting will be the daytime meeting beginning at 9:10 Monday June 16. There will be a short presentation by Belinda Giles, the PhD student who carried out a research project on the amount of exercise our children are getting through their work in the Stephanie Alexander Program. There will an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation.

Athletics Carnival

Remember this Friday all children will be participating in the Bong Bong Small School athletics carnival. This event will be held at Eridge Park, we will be travelling by bus. Children wishing to compete in the 800m event will need to make their own way to Eridge Park and be there ready for the race at 9:00am.
If you have not already done so please make sure payment and permission notes are received by Wednesday 11 June. A permission note is attached.

Payments Due

Athletics Carnival - Due Wednesday 11 June $5.00
Cooking Levy - Term 1 & 2 now due
School Voluntary Contribution Fees - Now due

Garden News

Kindergarten has had their first term in the garden this term, and boy have they been fabulous little helpers!! What enthusiasm! From weeding, watering, sowing seeds to bug spotting, these children are all for it!!
Thank you kindly for being such a pleasure to teach and guide through the garden, it has been so good to hear you say how fun weeding is!!!
Years 3/4 and 4/5/6 have been working hard at helping me get the last of the crops in before the dead of winter, the garlic, peas, coriander, beets, rocket, mizuna and lettuces...We have also had a bit of tidying to do, as the plants slow down and stop growing...The children are all so aware that gardening has a variety of jobs, and that not all jobs are incredibly exciting!!
Some jobs just need to be done in order to make way for the new season.... Garden classes have finished for the term due to athletics carnival this week and our big training and workshop day next week.
But, I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all the lovely parents who come to volunteer on the Fridays. The children get so much out of having you there I know you can feel that and that’s why you keep coming back. I look forward to seeing you in the next term for some more fun in the vegie garden!
It will be Year 1’s turn in the garden for term 3. Last Friday of term there will be a Working Bee, from 9am-11am...As usual, there will be coffee, tea, cake and good company.

Thanks

Kimo
Less is better for K-6 homework

New research shows homework has little benefit to primary school children and that too much could be a bad thing. The release of a book urging teachers to reevaluate how much homework is given to children follows a move in France to ban it for students up until age 11.

Professor Mike Horsley of Central Queensland University, said primary school students are doing tasks that may not contribute to their learning. Horsley is co-author of Reforming Homework: Practices, Learning and Policies.

He pointed to research that revealed younger students who do a small amount of study after school perform better in international testing. "Homework doesn't necessarily contribute to learning," he said, adding that excessive amounts can breed anxiety. But Horsley isn't calling for the end of homework altogether. Instead he argues for less work that is of a higher quality. "Students benefit from homework that is well-prepared, interesting and challenging, but not overtaxing. We're not saying homework should be abolished, just reformed and refined," he said.

There needs to be a wider conversation about the purpose of the homework. "[Teachers] need to plan the homework when planning the other parts of the curriculum and that planning process should involve parents as well." The book outlines ways in which homework can be effective and help kids learn. It also provides insight into the importance of support and guidance from parents and teachers.

Horsley said "high quality" tasks motivate students to invest effort in their homework, which leads to improved learning.

At a recent research symposium, Horsley and co-author of the book, Richard Walker from Sydney University, received feedback from parents on the anxiety produced by certain types of homework. Also, parents who work full-time highlighted the difficulty in helping their kids complete their homework due to time constraints.

Horsley said some parents did mention the benefit of working together with the child's teacher to set the right amount of homework.

He said the next step is to start a wider conversion with teachers about the nature of homework tasks.

Questions:

Does my child benefit from doing activities other than homework?

Does working on set homework tasks create tensions within your household?

Help needed in the Library!

We are desperately in need of more volunteers to cover books. Instruction available if needed, all materials supplied. If you are able to assist please see either Mrs Hebbard or Mrs Newey.
STUDENT WELFARE.

National Buddying Together Day: We will be holding our Buddying day on Monday, June 16, conducting novelty races at lunch time for the Better Buddy Program which will involve all students. As well as skittles under the COLA (please remember to send in 1 ltr washed milk bottles or small soft drink bottles would suit also. The hope is that it will be a fun time for the students weather permitting! (Board Games in the classrooms may be the alternative for wet weather!)

MENTORS!

“A man stood near a construction site where several bricklayers were working hard in the hot sun. He asked one guy, ‘What are you doing?’ The guy looked at him and said ‘Duh! I’m laying bricks.’ The man moved on to a second bricklayer, asking him the same question, ‘What are you doing?’ The second guy straightened up with a satisfied smile and said ‘I’m building a wall, and doing a pretty darn good job of it, if I say so myself!’

The man continued walking around the site, stopping by a third bricklayer to ask again, ‘What are you doing?’ The bricklayer looked up from his job first at, and then beyond the man, as though he saw something in the distant future the man was not yet aware of. “I’m building a magnificent cathedral” he said simply, turning back with trowel in hand to lay another brick in the wall.”

I share this, not about the building but the vision & the attitude of the 3rd man. All 3 men, were stating the facts, but only the last one had the character & foresight of the blueprint to see & state the final outcome of his work.

Sometimes, it’s not what we’re doing, but how we think about what we are doing. Parenting & teaching are works of mentors. What we do, how we think & what we portray are evidenced in the children we are responsible for. We are given but a brief moment, small windows of opportunity to make or sometimes break these little people. What we say has a big impact on what they say. What they hear is very likely what they will say, whether you’re around or not. This applies to all the good we encourage & develop in children, as well as unacceptable language, poor self esteem, name calling & put downs.

What we do, will often be what our children do & also sharing in our attitudes & what we say. Whether we have a "less than" approach to life or the attitude of an overcomer. They pick up on what they are a product of. It is important that we encourage ourselves & our children. Positive self talk, building our own self esteem & theirs is crucial to children believing they are equal to any of their peers. Knowing they have a lot to offer & are up for the challenges that life may send their way. Whether we feel we are at the tail, we can still have the mindset of being at the head. Everything begins in the mind. Every idea, invention, lyric or book, has it's origin in the heart & mind of someone. If we want to change the way we see things, we having to change how we think & feel about them and ourselves.

It is an ongoing process to “keep moving forward”, past any wrong doing, being, saying, thinking or feeling. Every day is a new page, ready for the writing in our lives & that of our children. It is important that we understand the concept of “the book of our lives that we are writing through our choices & views”. When it seems like one day is the same as the next, we can never be too sure what any day will entail, how events will pan out & the conscious choices we make which may change each day as it unfolds. The adage, good input=good output is so true of ourselves & what we portray to the lives entrusted to us.

Netty Dubokovich- Chaplain. ......“SpeakLife”
LANTERN WALK ARRANGEMENTS

The lantern walk menu that was sent home last week is attached to this newsletter. Please send this back completed and with money by next Monday 16th June.

APPLES for apple crumble—Anchors have very kindly offered to supply us with apples at a reduced price and Denise Howes has offered to cook them. We still need a few kilos, so anyone who is willing to buy them please let Anchors staff know you are from Berrima Public School and you will get the discount. Please leave apples in the office with Belinda.

SOUPMAKERS—We need volunteers to make pumpkin soup or minestrone. If you are willing to make minestrone we have a recipe that we can provide you with or if you can roast/cook some pumpkin that would also be appreciated. Please let me know if you can help out with soupmaking on 0413 482 731.

SECURITY GUARDS—We need volunteers to be stationed around the lantern walk track to make sure our lights aren't tampered with. Please let me know on the mobile number above if you are able to help out with this important job.

Thank you,
Megan
E: moorefamily21@bigpond.com

SCHOOL MARKETS

Thank you to those parents who came along and helped out at the school markets on Sunday. It ended up being a beautiful, if somewhat chilly, day with hundreds of visitors in Berrima.
WINTER SOLSTICE LANTERN WALK - Thursday 19th June, 5pm

We are looking forward to a fun filled family evening for our lantern parade to mark the winter solstice. Please remember that you are responsible for supervising your child/ren on the night of the lantern walk. Staff may be attending but will NOT be on duty.

Children must be under the supervision of a parent/designated adult at all times and **cannot be dropped off** to attend this event (this also includes high school age siblings). In previous years a number of children ran into the bush and moved many of the lights that were marking the path. We don’t want this to happen again so we are making sure the lights are more secure but we also need your help to ensure children don’t run off alone!

The P&C will be providing food on the night. For catering purposes we have included a menu and order form below. If you are bringing friends or family along please include their orders on your form. Please return this **with money by Monday 16th June**. Families are also welcome to bring along their own supper to enjoy. We recommend that you bring along a camp chair as we usually don’t have enough chairs for everyone that attends.

In addition to the menu below apple crumble and cream will be available on the night for $3. We will also be selling coffee and hot chocolate (from our fancy machine) for $3. Tea and instant coffee will be available at no charge.

*Please make all payments to the P & C account **NOT the school bank account***

---

**FAMILY NAME:** ........................................................................................................................................

**CHILD’S NAME** ................................................................................................................................. **CLASS** ........................................................................................................................................

**MENU- LANTERN PARADE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUMPKIN SOUP and a bread roll</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINESTRONE and a bread roll</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAUSAGE SIZZLE (Sausage in a roll)</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACARONI CHEESE*</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**: $.............

*The Macaroni cheese has bacon in it. Please write on your order if you are a vegetarian as we will make a quantity of mac cheese without bacon.*
PARENT/CAREGIVER CONSENT FORM

On 13 June 2014 Berrima Public School will be participating in the Small Schools Athletics Carnival, which will be held at Eridge Park.

The Children will compete in the usual athletics events plus some novelty events. Events will commence at 10.00am.

We are expecting to leave school by 9:15am and returning approximately 2:30pm in time for the afternoon school bus. We will be travelling by bus to the venue at a cost of $5.00.

The children will need to wear their red sports uniform. Please make sure your child/ren bring with them a hat and a drink bottle. Can you please apply sunscreen to your child/ren before they come to school, as this will save time? The teachers will reapply throughout the day.

Even though there will be a canteen operating on the day we do suggest to pack an extra drink and some snacks.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

RETURN SLIP

I do / do not consent to __________________________________________ of class _________

to travel by bus to Eridge Park to participate in the Small Schools Athletics Carnival on 13 June 2014.

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: ________________________________

☐ Enclosed $ 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, this helps to identify your deposit.