AMPED UP TO PLAY BEFORE THE WIGGLES!

Our school stage band, Amped Up (Zarli, Michael, Zac, Ewan, Mitchell, James, Mackenzie and Ashleigh), led by Mike and Vanessa Gordon will be performing before the Wiggles on Sunday, 8th March at Westfield Hornsby from 9:30 to 10:30am. Come along and support our great musicians.

Swimming Carnival
Our swimming carnival ran 'like clockwork' with many competitors gaining PBs (personal best times). Many thanks to Mr Jones and his band of merry teachers who worked tirelessly both before and at the carnival to ensure the smooth running. Many thanks to the many parents who supported the day either by assisting with judging, working in the canteen, cheering and supporting the carnival. Again a huge thank you to Wayne Bingham for donating his time, equipment and expertise. We are truly fortunate to have these wonderful parents, grandparents and community members at BPS.

Good luck to all our Zone Swimming Competitors next Tuesday at the Zone Swimming Carnival. A huge congratulations to Jensen G (3P) who broke the 2005 9 years Boy's Freestyle Record with a new record time of 37:72 sec.

Emailing
Thank you to all parents who are using emails to communicate with their child's teacher. Please remember 'email etiquette'. Teachers do not need to be 'bombarded' by emails connecting them to newspaper articles, pyramid selling or new building contractors. This is not the purpose of school emails or class email lists. The purpose of the emails is to keep in close contact with school and home and ensure the best positive communication, collaborative atmosphere and quality teaching for our students. Please remember to allow for at least a '24 hour' reply. Teachers do not have time during class/school time some days to check their emails. If you have an urgent request or information that your teacher or child needs to know – please phone the office.
School Representative Shirts
At the end of 2014 the School Sport Rep Shirts were collected and counted. Shirts numbered 3, 6, 7, 8 and 12 are missing. Could you please check cupboards, drawers or school bags to see if these shirts have been kept at home by mistake? It is sad to see a sporting group leaving the school with a couple of children in different shirts!

Parent Teacher Interviews
Our parent teacher interviews are being held in Week 9 (23rd – 27th March). This is a great chance to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss their progress. Stage 3 (Yrs 5 and 6) interviews will be held on Monday, 23rd March; stage 2 (Yrs 3 and 4) on Tuesday, 24th March; Years 1 on Wednesday, 25th March; Years 2 on Thursday, 26th March and Kindergarten on Friday, 27th March; during the hours of 12:30 to 5:00pm. All teachers will also be available on Wednesday, 25th March from 3:45pm to 6:30pm for late night interviews. Just like last year, parents will be able to see available times and book interview times on-line, receiving an email confirmation upon booking. Booking details will be included in the newsletter in coming weeks.

Teachers on playground duty
During the morning, 8:50 to 9:20am, all children are expected to play on the asphalt area close to the majority of classrooms. Please do not try to have a parent/teacher interview with the teachers on duty during this time as it will hinder their duty of care to our students.

Family Holidays
When you decide to take a family holiday during school terms please do not request teachers to set work for your child/ren. If you are going 50 days or more, you will need to enquire into Distance Education. If you are going for less, think about writing a diary/journal of your travels, buy some text books or surf the internet for appropriate work. http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/public-school-principals-crack-down-on-family-holidays-in-term-time-20150228-13p9ky.html

Di Bower
Principal

LIBRARY - Our author for the month of February was Graeme Base. He is an amazing author and illustrator whose book “Animalia” sold over two million copies worldwide. The children enjoyed learning about his life and his incredible artistic talent, see children’s reviews. His website www.graemebase.com is worth a visit. This week we are celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss on March 2nd. He would have been 111 years old! We have many Dr. Seuss books available for borrowing.

Thank you to Mrs Horner for making and donating so many colourful library bags. We are selling them for $2.00. Children need a library bag in all grades.
The Book Club is well underway thanks to the expert management of Mrs Steel and Mrs Williams. Our school receives bonus points for all books purchased by the children and we use these points to purchase new resources for our library. Thank you parents for your support.—Jenny Smith

Library author reviews by Year 6

Graeme Base
The wonderful Graeme Base is one of the worlds best authors and illustrators. His biggest success was Animalia which received international fame when first published in 1986. Some of his other titles include: The Waterhole, Enigma and The Eleventh Hour. His inspiration usually comes from different countries that he visits such as Egypt and Africia. Puzzles are regularly included in the back of his books. You crack codes using patterns, letters and numbers.

Visit his website graemebase.com for more information. If you haven’t read at least one of Graeme’s books you are missing out on a whole lot of fun.
Renee B and Eliza R

Graeme Base
Graeme Base is a well known author and illustrator. He has written many books such as, Little Elephants, The Worst Bank in the Universe, Karnak and this year he is celebrating the 29th anniversary of Animalia.

Berowra Public school library is celebrating Author of the Month, Graeme Base. He has been writing children’s books for decades and is a multi award winning author.

He is well known for his incredible illustrations that captivate the mind with all his mysterious illustrations and puzzles. Graeme Base started off as an advertisement illustrator and worked his way up to an author.
Amelia H, Zoe G and Edward R
Congratulations to Amy S, Layla W, Annika E, Grace B and Aleisha C for being selected to attend the Sydney North Junior Dance Workshops at Sydney Dance Company Studios on 17th and 18th March. I’m sure they will have a fabulous time.

Mrs Kelly Lukic

Junior Choir has begun and is in 2C classroom on Thursdays during lunchtime. This choir is for anyone in Year 1 and Year 2 and will be held each week at the same time. An announcement will be made for the children at the Monday morning assembly and again on Thursday morning. I look forward to seeing and hearing lots of children then.

Any enquiries please phone, email or drop into 2C classroom.

Rosemary Cacitti

Sushi is now available every Wednesday at the canteen. There is a choice of cucumber, tuna, avocado or chicken teriyaki for $3.00 each.

Check out BPS Canteen News on facebook. It contains new items on the menu, events and happening and special day reminders.

Our school canteen is open three days a week: - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Don’t forget you can order lunches online at flexischool.com.au.

Pancake day was a huge success, I would like to thank my fantastic volunteers for helping me on pancake day. A big thankyou to Heather T, Leo H, Philly S, Leanne P, Chris C, Miyuki, Simon L, Doxia, Kerrilee K, Chelsea S, Jodi L, Linda E and Carolyn H.

The Uniform Shop is open on Mondays 9-10am and Thursdays 3-3.45pm. Cash, cheque and EFTPOS is available (minimum purchase $20).

If you would like to volunteer in the shop, please leave your name and contact details with the school office.

PERFORMING ARTS - Dance - Congratulations to Amy S, Layla W, Annika E, Grace B and Aleisha C for being selected to attend the Sydney North Junior Dance Workshops at Sydney Dance Company Studios on 17th and 18th March. I’m sure they will have a fabulous time.

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If you would like to volunteer in the shop, please leave your name and contact details with the school office.

Dr Seuss

The frog on the log

There was once a frog who sat on a log. He was alone and away from his home. One day there was fog. The unfortunate frog on the log said “I will have to roam and find my home” So the frog set off, and bumped into a dog. “I am looking for my home, have you seen a dome with a gnome?” “Left and right or right and left, I cannot help you with this quest; I will leave you to do the rest! But just then he stopped and said “I’m sorry that I really don’t care, I hope you will find your home somewhere” “Thanks” said the frog with a sarcastic air, stepping forward without a care. He stepped on his dome with its gnome! Fantastic! He realised he was home!

By Sophia H

Dr Seuss

A flea in a tree

Once there was a flea in a tree. Along came a curious bee ‘Hello flea’, said the bee ‘why are you up in that tree?’ ‘Because I wanted to fly but I don’t know how, You’re a bee you could show me now! The flea hopped on the bee and said. Wowee wowee! Look at me! Look at me! I’m so full of glee! Because I’m flying don’t you see!!!

By Lachlan O
**SCHOOL BANKING** - Banking has commenced every Tuesday morning at the canteen between 8.50 and 9.20am. The Commonwealth Bank is continuing their commitment to schools Australia-wide, with $5 when a student makes their first school banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made (up to $10 per individual deposit).

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Ku-ring-gai High School**—Please join us for a school tour and morning tea with our Principal Ms Terri-Anne Kamasz on Tuesday 10th March at 9.30am. Bookings essential please ring 9144 3477.

**Positions vacant**—NSW RMS are currently advertising School Crossing Supervisor positions in this area. All enquiries please call the School Crossing Supervisor Program on 1300 728 543.

**Hornsby Council**—will be organising a Volunteers Expo on Wednesday 15 April, between 11.30am and 2pm at Hornsby Mall, Florence Street, Hornsby, outside Westfield.

**Hornsby Council**—A free family fun day event—Teddy Bear’s Picnic Lisgar Gardens, Sunday 15/3 from 11am-3pm.

World Education Program (WEP) - seeking volunteer host families. Contact Sylvia Kelly on 1300 884 733 for more information or http://www.wep.org.au

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families, please call 1800 500 501 or http://www.scce.com.au

**MONEY COLLECTION DAYS**

Please note that money collection days at Berowra Public School are Tuesdays and Thursdays only.

For security of payments it would be appreciated if money only be sent to school on these days in a signed payment envelope.

We have only two days a week allocated to receipt money so please remind your child to give it to their teacher in the morning as receipting and banking are completed during the day. Correct money is appreciated as the office is unable to hold change.

Please do not hand payments in after school. Handing money into the office may result in confusion and your child’s name not being marked off as paid for sport, excursions and activities.

Any payments for the choir, drama, interschool sport or extra curricular activities as well as P&C or Support Group fundraisers and the canteen special lunch days can also be handed to the class teacher, but please include these in separate envelopes and with separate payment.

Thank you for your cooperation.
### Diary Dates

**March**
- **Fri 6**  Stewart House last collection day
- **Sat 7**  AGHS / ABHS Enrichment Test
- **Tues 10**  Zone Swimming Carnival
- **Thurs 12**  Selective High School Placement Test
- **Wed 18**  P&C meeting 7.30pm in staffroom
- **Mon 23**  Parent/Teacher Interviews
- **Sat 28**  State Elections

**April**
- **Thurs 2**  Hat Parade
  Last day of Term 1
- **Fri 3**  Good Friday
- **Mon 6**  Easter Monday
- **Mon 20**  Staff Development Day
- **Tues 21**  Students return for Term 2
- **Sat 25**  ANZAC Day
- **Thurs 30**  BPS Cross Country Carnival

**May**
- **Thurs 7**  School Photo Day

### NOTES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

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Most notes are on the BPS website under ‘Our School’ tab—‘Missed a Note?’

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### Stewart House Clothing Appeal

It’s time for a clean out of those cupboards! Stewart House are again asking for donations of clean clothing.

Please return your Stewart House bag to the staffroom foyer by Friday 6th March.

The pick up truck is coming the next week so no more bags after this date please.
Mid-Term 1 Stage 2 Report

The NSW State Government 2021 Plan is about goal setting and improving performance. The Education State Goal is to ‘improve education and learning outcomes for all students.’ Access to and participation in high quality education provides the foundations for long-term social and economic success. At Berowra Public School we support all students to reach their full potential at all stages of their education.

Stage 2 students and teachers have been busy setting goals. The students have been asked to reflect on personal learning goals and the teachers have been assessing and observing students to identify the individual needs within their class. The teachers assisted by Mrs Sascha McIntyre the Berowra Public School Learning and Support Teacher (LAST) and the Learning and Support Team are adjusting learning programs to cater for the individual needs and learning styles across the school.

The teachers are preparing student ‘Snap-Shots’ which will be sent home on the 20th March. The ‘Snap-Shots’ provide feedback to the parents about student application and attitude towards school work. We look forward to meeting with parents if required, to discuss your child’s general attitude towards school work.

Part of the personal development learning is to build resilience. Please share and reinforce with your child the following ‘Bounce Back’ acrostic, to support your child in building resilience and coping with times when things go wrong.

‘Remember to keep things in perspective.’

Bad times don’t last. Things always get better. Stay optimistic.

Other people can help if you talk to them. Get a reality check.

Unhelpful thinking makes you feel more upset. Think again.

Nobody is perfect – not you and not others.

Concentrate on the positives (no matter how small) and use laughter.

Everybody experiences sadness, hurt and setbacks, sometimes,

not just you. They are a normal part of life. Try not to personalise them.

Blame fairly. How much of what happened was due to you, others or just bad luck?

Accept what can’t be changed (but try to change what you can first)

Catastrophising exaggerates your worries. Don’t believe the worst!

Keep things in perspective. It’s only part of your life.

Kind regards,

Glenn Pritchard

News from Parliament

On the Wednesday 25th February we had our first parliament for 2015 and Matt Kean came to open it. All the new ministers did a great job. We raised one motion, that we should get shade for the sandpit as the tree has been removed. This motion passed and went to the minister of Health and Safety. This minister will take it to Mrs Bower for further discussion.

Our next Parliament is Week 5 Term 2.

Student Parliament.
Stage 3 Report

Stage 3 have had a busy start to the year. All 4 classes are settled into their individual class routine and are working hard to achieve stage goals and expectations.

The year 6 students have embraced the new organisation of literacy groups that run each morning Mon-Wed and are already displaying progress from working with a variety of teachers each morning as well as developing independent work habits as they complete set projects. Students have also been impressive with the project presentation and we have been enthralled by the students technical skills when producing power point displays and creative models.

Year 5 are introducing similar organisational styles working as a group for many lessons in preparation for when they have Mrs McIntyre each morning in Term 2.

Number groups started this week. They run Mon-Wed after recess. The students have undertaken extensive assessments to ensure they have placed in an appropriate group for their ability level. Obviously, groups will be re-assessed in the next few weeks and students moved accordingly.

The Stage 3 HSIE unit for this term, ‘Rainforests’ is well underway. The student interest is high and their general knowledge is expanding. It is very pleasing to also witness their developing environmental awareness in regards to rainforests deforestation and their particular part they might play in their protection in the future.

We are all loving the art diaries. Lots of interesting artworks and techniques are being completed as well as delving into profiles of famous artists. Summer sport rotations will be concluding in week 8 so please ensure all payments for PSSA and elective sports are finalised at the office.

Year 6 have been particularly impressive in completing their leadership roles across the school. It is pleasing to see them wear their badges with pride and conduct themselves responsibly and respectfully when fulfilling their many roles in the school.

Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on a unit of work in PD/Health related to bullying. We will be emphasising the position and behaviour of ‘bystanders’ during incidents or situations that may occur in the playground.

We have had 6 weeks of concentrated work, fun and dedicated learning and all Stage 3 are looking forward to reaching set goals by the end of term.

Elizabeth Beckedahl
A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enroll your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Dear Parent

I am writing to advise you that we suspect that nits/head lice are present in the hair of some students within your child’s class.

Please check your child’s hair for nits/lice tonight using the methods recommended in information from NSW Health on the following website - http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/treatment.asp

If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended. Further information on head lice is available on the NSW Health website or through the Department’s website at - http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php.

I appreciate your assistance in this regard.

Yours sincerely
Di Bower
Principal
LEARN TO SWIM IN THE EASTER HOLIDAYS!

INDOOR HEATED POOL
LESSONS FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN, PRESCHOOLERS AND BABIES

Holiday Course - Mon 13 to Fri 17 April
TERM 2 STARTS 20 APRIL 2015

DENIS PONTIN'S SWIM SCHOOL
PH 9489 4771 • pontinswimschool.com.au
48 TENNYSON AVE, TURRAMURRA

BOOK NOW FOR HOLIDAYS AND TERM 2

St Ives High School
where choice create infinite possibilities

2016 YEAR 7 GIFTED AND TALENTED TESTING

When: Monday, 30 March 2015 : 8.45 am – 12 noon
Where: St Ives High School Hall, Yarrabung Rd, St Ives
Cost: $70 (non-refundable)

Applications close Monday, 20 March 2015.
An information pack will be sent on receipt of payment and application form.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM
This program serves a readily identified community need - that of challenging talented students in a local setting. In addition, it provides an extra dimension to our general aim of providing each student with an excellent academic, cultural, social and physical education. Our program also offers to potential selective high school students, the high academic standard they are seeking, but in a setting which is co-educational, socially cohesive and community focused.

Our objectives are to:
- create a core class of gifted and talented students at St Ives High School. The group would be globally gifted but having specific strengths and talents in numeracy, literacy and problem-solving techniques;
- provide for the natural progression of gifted and talented students through a high school setting. These students have already been recognised and catered for in local primary schools and our program would complement developments in a number of primary schools;
- implement accelerated progression where appropriate, allowing future opportunity for students to complete the School Certificate and/or the Higher School Certificate ahead of their peers.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Patricia Gettens, the Program Coordinator, on 9144 1685 or email patricia.gettens@det.nsw.edu.au.

Mark Watson
Principal

Open Afternoon
Tuesday 3 March, 2015; 4 - 7 pm
St Ives High School, Yarrabung Road, St Ives, 2075 P: 91441689 www.stives-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Come and join us as our school swings into action for you to see the diverse programs and opportunities for your child.
- Hear an address by the Principal, Mr Mark Watson.
- Visit our Trade Training Centre, Library, connected teaching space, and technologically equipped classrooms.
- Take part in fun activities in all subject areas.
- Meet our fantastic students and experienced teachers who are proud of their school and keen to answer all your questions.
- Be informed about our Gifted & Talented Program and extension courses.
- Learn about extra curricula activities such as Duke of Edinburgh, Music, Trains, Debating, knock out and representative sport, Performing Arts class (Dance, Acting, Musical Theatre and Vocal Tuition), Band and Music Tutorial program, and multicultural activities.
- Hear about student leadership opportunities e.g. SRC, peer leaders, Interact, and student volunteering program.
- Find out how our high school works - we'd love to see you in 2015. Herting is available on Yarrabung road but not on school grounds.

To purchase pre-sale tickets or for ticket information please e-mail wideviewfete@gmail.com
Disclaimer:
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Parenting Anxious Children
SEMINAR FOR PARENTS - TERM 1, 2015

A seminar for parents of children aged 4-10 yrs discussing:
The nature of anxiety and the different ways it may present in children, risk factors and potential implications for parents and children, as well as identification of practical strategies & resources to assist.

Thursday
5 March
Time:
10am-12pm

- The seminar will be facilitated by CYMHS staff (which includes Psychologists, Social Workers & family therapists).
- The seminar will be run at Hillview Community Health Centre 1334 Pacific Highway Turramurra. Entry via Boyd Ave. Please allow enough time for parking and arrive 10 minutes before the registered start time. Unfortunately, we cannot provide childcare facilities and are unable to have infants attend with their parents.
- The seminar is available to families who live in the Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai local government area.
- The cost of the seminar is $10 but there will be no charge for concession card holders.
- Registration is essential as groups fill quickly.
- To confirm your place please call CYMHS on 9485 6155.
- Participants will be asked to complete feedback forms.
- The service reserves the right to postpone or cancel seminars in the case of insufficient registrations.

EXCITING NEW CLASSES:
LYRICAL FOR THE CREATIVE AT HEART
HIP HOP LEARN THE LATEST MOVES
MUMS AND BUBS FOR UNDER 3’S

OTHER CLASSES AVAILABLE:
- BALLET
- JAZZ
- TAP
- MODERN
- AMERICAN

BEROWRA & PENNANT HILLS

VERY REASONABLE FEES
FROM 2 YEARS TO ADVANCED

PH: 0408 473 803 or 0413 720 914

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Asquith Girls High School

Year 5 & 6 students and parents invitation to our

OPEN NIGHT
Monday 2nd March 2015
School Hall, Stokes Ave
Asquith
5:15pm BBQ
6pm – 8pm School Information and Tour

2016 Gifted and Talented Examination
Saturday 7th March 2015
Visit our website to download an application
www.asquithgir-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Message from the Principal

I extend a warm welcome and invitation to all Year 5 and 6 parents to our Open Night.

Asquith Girls High School is proud to offer an holistic and nurturing educational environment catering to the specific academic and wellbeing needs of our students.

The Gifted and Talented program is supported by extension, acceleration and extra curricular opportunities that cater for individualised learning.

We are committed to developing young women who are independent, responsible learners and leaders who are able to work cooperatively as future global citizens.

I look forward to meeting you at our Open Night.

Elizabeth Amranakis
Principal

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way...

to make ice blocks.

Summer afternoons are hot and sticky in Australia, and kids come home from school tired and hungry. Get them eating fruit with these super easy, fruit-filled ice blocks...

Place any combo of finely diced fruit into moulds like: mango, blueberries, strawberries, watermelon, rockmelon, kiwifruit, drained canned peaches, apricots or pineapple in natural juice, or passionfruit pulp.

Top with a fruit juice of your choice then freeze until solid – at least 4 hours, or overnight.

Enjoy watching your kids eat fruit!

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

THE ATHLETE’S FOOT HORNSEY

REWARDS PROGRAM IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF BEROWRA PS

The School Rewards Program is a great fundraising opportunity with $5 from every pair of shoes purchased being donated back to your school. This applies to the whole family across our fantastic range of school, sports, work and casual shoes. Ask one of our friendly staff in store for more details.

$5 FROM EVERY PAIR OF SHOES PURCHASED IS DONATED BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL

LOWER GROUND FLOOR
WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN
Blue Light

BLUE LIGHT DISCO
Saturday, 14th March 2015
6:30pm—8:30pm
Age U/13 years
Tickets: $5
Canteen available—including chicken nuggets and hot dogs
PCYC Performing Arts Centre
22 Waitara Ave, Waitara
Tel: 9477 2310 Email: dallas@pcycnsw.org.au

Pre booking essential Limited tickets at the door

Blue Light

NO ALCOHOL - NO DRUGS—NO PASSOUTS

Second Hand Shop

SECOND HAND WITH A TWIST
We are a treasure trove of furniture, homewares, eclectic pieces, glassware, china and clothing, including vintage garments and accessories, current women’s fashion including plus sizes.
0412 276 549
4/85 Hunter Street
Hornsey

Facebook: 2ndhandstudio
secondhandstudio@outlook.com

Benedictine Monastery Arcadia

50th Annual Country Fair

Major Raffle Prizes
1st: $800 shopping voucher
2nd: $400 weekend away
3rd: $100 dinner for 2

8th March 2015
105 Arcadia Road, Arcadia
(02) 9683 1159

Asquith Girls High School

Coffee with the Principal

Year 5 and 6 Parents & Caregivers are invited to have coffee in the school gardens with
Elizabeth Amvrazis, Principal
Thursday 5th March
9.30am—10.30am
This is an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have about Asquith Girls High School and the opportunities offered in a relaxed and personalised setting.
RSVP: Tuesday 3rd March
Phone: 9477 6411
Email: asquithgir-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
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**50m Freestyle**

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**50m Breaststroke**

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<td>Sophia H</td>
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<td>Jack J</td>
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<td>Abbey T</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ty W</td>
<td></td>
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**50m Backstroke**

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**50m Butterfly**

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**100m Freestyle**

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**Relays**

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**Overall House Places**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kangaroo</td>
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<td>Emu</td>
<td>Wombat</td>
<td>Koala</td>
</tr>
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</table>
MATT KEAN OPENS 2015 STUDENT PARLIAMENT
Approaching Berowra Public School

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school in order to:
· Discuss the progress or welfare of your own child.
· Express concern about actions of other students.
· Enquire about school policy or practice.
· Express concern about actions of staff.

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

These guidelines aim to:
· provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner.
· ensure that the rights of students, staff and parents are respected and upheld.
· support sensitivity and confidentiality.
· help reach an agreed solution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCERN</th>
<th>APPROPRIATE ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The academic progress of your own child</td>
<td>• Directly contact the child's teacher either by note, by phone or at an appropriate time to discuss any issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The welfare of your own child</td>
<td>• For minor issues directly contact your child's teacher to clarify information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• For more serious concerns, contact office. State nature of concern and arrange a suitable time to talk with class teacher or appropriate staff member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact, custody details, health issues etc. Please contact the office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions of other students</td>
<td>• Contact the class teacher for a classroom problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Contact the stage supervisor or principal for playground problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School policy or practice</td>
<td>• Contact office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see the principal and/or appropriate member of staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions of a staff member</td>
<td>• Contact the teacher directly in the first instance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On occasion, concerns may cause frustration and anxiety. At such times it is always important to organise a time to talk with school staff in an unhurried and confidential atmosphere.

**Please Note.** No parent should directly approach another person's child. The school will deal with issues between students as part of the school's Discipline and Welfare policy. In very rare cases, where people wishing to express concerns, do so in an aggressive, threatening or violent manner, the principal (or nominee) has the legal authority under the ‘Inclosed Lands Act’ to:
· direct the person to immediately leave the grounds.
· call the police to remove the person should he/she refuse.
· withdraw future permission (by letter) for the person to enter the grounds without permission of the principal.
· Seek further legal avenues.

Growing and learning together for life
Berowra Public School, 2015

Grandparents Day - Harmony Day - Easter Celebrations

Come to school on Thursday 2nd April and join us in celebrating Grandparents Day, Harmony Day and Easter!

We will begin our celebrations at 11:00 with a special ‘grandparent’s time’ where grandparents are encouraged to share a story (read or told). Bring a picnic rug or a fold up chair! Then enjoy morning tea with the children. Tea, coffee and light snacks will be available for purchase from the canteen.

Following morning tea we will continue our celebrations with a whole school assembly where children will showcase their many talents under the banner of ‘Harmony’…this includes dances, drama, maths, art and much, much more!

This year, the children will be making their hats at school with their ‘buddy class’. Although we won’t be having our ‘traditional’ hat parade, the children will be proudly wearing their hats throughout the celebrations.

(Psss…what would Easter be without the Easter Bunny? We would love you to join the children in singing some well-known Easter songs to welcome the Easter Bunny! Hopefully…while we’re all together in the hall…the Easter Bunny might even visit the classrooms and leave some Easter Eggs!!!)

We hope you can join us for a…hoppity and harmonious day when we will celebrate cultural diversity…tolerance and inclusiveness.

Grandparents will shortly receive a personal invitation from their grandchild.
Welcome to my next blog series “What infant teachers want parents to know”. This is a series that will focus on common parent issues that teachers of Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 children face everyday. The series aim is to give parents more information about each area of concern and offer practical tips to ensure that these concerns do not become an issue in your household.

One of the biggest issues that is often brought to the teacher by a parent of a 5-8 year old child is the concern about what reading level their child is at. Many parents worry that their child is significantly below another child in their class or not moving up levels as fast as they should. The first thing that teachers want to shout from the rooftops is “Parents, stop obsessing over reading levels!”

A reading level (whether it be a number, colour or letter, depending on the book) indicates to the teacher what type of reader the child is. A child could be a beginner reader, emergent (developing) reader or an independent reader. The level is usually displayed at the front or back of the book. A reading level is given by a teacher who has conducted a “running record”, which is a reading assessment tool.

Below are 10 facts that teachers want parents to know about reading levels

1. Do not look at the back of the book

It is interesting to teach Kindergarten in the first term. Not for all the obvious reasons but rather to observe the way parents use reading levels as a way of competing against each other. At the beginning of first term in Kindergarten, children are given reading books and are happy to read them with the teacher during a guided reading session. They take them home at the end of this session to practise reading with their family. In Term 2 it all starts to change. When children are given their new reading books, they flip their books to the back to see what level they are on. The children say comments like “yes, I am on level 3” or “My mum said I should be on a higher level than this” or “Level 3 again!” It is these comments that change the idea of what reading is about. It moves from reading for
enjoyment and a chance to practise reading skills to a tool for parents to compare their child against other children. As a parent, it is important not to show your child your interest in the number, colour or letter but focus on the reading skills that your child is developing.

2. The book should be easy
The book that comes home should be easy for your child. Reading at home should be an opportunity for your child to practise a smooth clear reading voice. Reading for them at home needs to be enjoyable and not a time for struggling and arguing. Parents can ask lots of questions while their child is reading to check that they are understanding the story line or facts of the text.

3. Read the book many times
Many parents are concerned that their child has had the same book for a few nights or a week. They inform the teacher that they can read it easily and require a harder book. Teachers want the children to feel that reading is easy at home. Harder texts are given in the classroom under the guidance of the teacher. They do not want a child to believe that it is so difficult. Praise the child for how they read. Emphasise how smooth their voice is or congratulate them on working out an unknown word. Reading a book each time, can be a different experience. Have a different focus for each time you read it with them. You could focus on the use of punctuation one time, working out unknown words one time, the story line one time and what’s in each picture another time.

4. Staying on one level for a long time
Parents voice concerns about their child staying on a level for a long time. Teachers need a child to be secure (very competent) at a level before moving on. Being secure means that their reading voice is smooth and fluent, they can read a variety of texts at that level, have a variety of reading strategies they use to work out unknown words independently and they have great comprehension of the text. Children need to be exposed to both fiction and non fiction books at each level. Non fiction books tend to be harder for children as the vocabulary is more demanding. Lots of exposure to non fiction texts will help your child increase their vocabulary.
5. Reading strategies
A child needs to develop a variety of reading strategies to work out unknown words in texts. While listening to your young child read, try to encourage them to work out the word independently. Informing your child of the word straight away will not develop their reading skills. Many children can not move to a new level as their undeveloped reading strategies will not support them at a new level. For further information about reading strategies refer to my previous blog “How to read with young children: Reading strategies”

6. Do not compare children
Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses, children are no different. Each child develops their reading skills at their own pace. A parent’s concern about a child’s reading level can be due to the fact that another child in their class is at a reading level much higher than their own child. Most children when they are learning to read have times where they move up levels quickly and other times when they plateau for a while. As long as they are making progress and their teacher is happy with this progress there is nothing to worry about.

7. Do not compare teachers
Another main issue that teachers face daily is the constant comparison of classrooms. As each child is different, each teacher is different as well. A teacher has their own idea of the most effective way of teaching reading, therefore some focus on moving up levels, some want to ensure a child is really secure before moving them up and some want the child to have more exposure of different texts at that level before moving up. Your child will have to work with all different types of people in their life so it is important that your child is given that opportunity with each teacher they have. As a parent you may not be completely happy with how the classroom is run but have faith that the school ensures that all teachers are working to the best of their ability for each child. If you have a real concern about a teacher, always approach them first for some clarification.
8. Comprehension

The most important part of reading is to be able to understand what you have written. So many times I listen to beautiful oral reading from a child, who is able to work out unknown words easily and pronounce all words correctly. However, they are unable to answer questions about what they have read. Moving up levels too quickly may cause more harm than good. A lot of children’s comprehension strategies are undeveloped as the focus has always been on how the child sounds. Parents need to ask lots of questions starting with “why” and “how” about the text. Having a discussion about what has come up in the text is invaluable for a student’s comprehension.

9. Children going backwards

Over the school holidays it is very common for a child to go back a few levels in reading. During the school holidays they are not having their targeted reading sessions at school, getting new readers and working on new strategies. Give your child a few weeks to get back into the routine of school before approaching their teacher about reading levels.

10. Assessing Reading levels

Teachers are constantly assessing reading levels of each child in their class. They observe how the child reads each guided reading session and writes notes about that child for the next reading session. They conduct “running records” regularly to give the appropriate levelled text. A running record is when a child reads a text at a particular level and the teacher records all the mistakes and self corrections the child makes. Using a few calculations, the teacher will know whether the text is too easy, correct or too hard for the child.

I hope this blog has given parents more insight into the world of reading levels. Teachers want parents to focus more on how a child is reading than what the reading level is. The more focus a parent places on a reading level the more focus a child places on it. Encourage reading for enjoyment and open their eyes to a whole new world inside books.

Until next time …

Kelly Pisani

http://creatingalearningenvironment.com/?p=213