Dear Parents,

Congratulations to our Swimming Representatives that did an amazing job at the District Carnival last Friday, 19th February. All of our children were fantastic ambassadors for our school and represented us with great pride! At the conclusion of the day, our school was announced the 2016 District Swimming Champions. Well done B.P.S. We also had our Senior Boys and Girls as well as our Junior Boys relay teams qualify for the Regional Trials. Our junior boys actually broke the record which has stood since 1977 – FANTASTIC work boys and to all involved in the relays.

To add to our success we had Angus Warne announced as the Junior Boy Champion and Caiden Grimmett announced as the Senior Boys Champion. Well done to both boys on these outstanding results.

We have had 17 children qualify to attend the Regional Carnival in Dubbo next Friday, 4th March. Congratulations to the following children: Kai Barclay, Jacob Lamb, Keira Copeland, Mia McClements, Oliver Hamer, Brodie Wolfe, Tyler Johnson, Angus Warne, Oscar Simeonidis, Sam Hamer, William Sloan, Mitchell Lamb, Caiden Grimmett, Amelia Ridley, Abby Leven, Kayli Burke and James Hillsdon.
I have had several complaints from parents and members of the school community about unsafe driving practices of a morning and afternoon around the school but in particular the drop of zone in George Street and the double parking of an afternoon, once again in George Street at the front of the school. This issue has been passed onto the Police as we want to keep all of our children safe. I have information about ‘Drop-off and Pick-up’ attached to the back of this newsletter.

Parents/Carers need to be aware that the Minister for Education has approved changes to the Attendance Register codes(from 2015 onwards). There are very clear directions regarding applications for students to take holidays outside of the school holiday periods.

From 2015, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A certificate of exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.

If travel outside school vacation periods is necessary, the following conditions apply:

- If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as L and a certificate of Extended Leave-Travel will be issued.
- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student’s best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as A. A certificate of Extended Leave-Travel will not be issued.
- If you do wish to take a holiday with your child and wish to be considered for a certificate of Extended Leave-Travel, please put your reasons in writing and hand it in to the front office.

Primary Years (3, 4, 5 and 6) Assemblies are held every second Wednesday at 2:10pm in the McMullen Hall. The next Assembly will be held on Wednesday 9th March at 2.10pm. All parents and friends are very welcome to join us to celebrate our accomplishments.

Infants (Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2) Assemblies are held every second Friday at 2.15pm in the McMullen Hall. The next Assembly is Friday 26th February – this assembly will take place in the Lambert Street Hall due to Parent Teacher Interviews. All parents and friends are very welcome to join us to celebrate our accomplishments.

As a staff we continue to modify our Assessment and Reporting practices to ensure we are reporting to the new Australian Curriculum and to also ensure parents obtain feedback each term on their child’s progress from their child’s classroom teacher. At anytime, if parents have any concerns or issues about your child’s learning, you are encouraged to contact the school to make an appointment to speak with your child’s classroom teacher. The Assessment and Reporting schedule for 2016 is:

- Term 1 Week 4/5 - Monday 15th February-Friday 26th February – Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Term 2 Week 9 - Thursday 23rd June – Semester 1 Reports home
- Term 3 - Parent/Teacher Interviews (Dates to be advised)
- Term 4 Week 9 – Thursday 8th December – Semester 2 Reports home

The days and times for the remainder of the Parent/Teacher Interviews for week 5 is outlined below.

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<tr>
<th>Thursday 25th Feb</th>
<th>Friday 26th Feb</th>
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<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2/3, Year 2 &amp; Year 1/2</td>
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If you were unable to attend a parent/teacher interview during the past 2 weeks and would like to see your child’s teacher, please contact the office so a meeting time can be scheduled.

**Food Allergies** - We do have several children at our school who have peanut allergies and have severe reactions if exposed to this food. Parents are asked to be mindful of this when packing recess and lunch and are encouraged not to send products which contain nuts in them to school.

A general reminder:-
- All items of clothing and personal belongings should be clearly marked with your child’s name.
- All children require a broad brimmed hat each day as our school has a “No Hat, No Play” policy.
- When parents and friends come to the school during the day, they should present to the front office on arrival. This is a Legal and Workplace Safety requirement and is followed for the safety and security of all children and teachers.
- We continue to encourage parents to make appointments to come and talk about your child’s progress, problems that may arise, ideas etc. It is reminded that the education of your child is a team effort with teachers and parents being the main stakeholders. With this in mind, it is an important reminder that the parent/teacher relationship always needs to be cohesive and supportive and one of mutual respect. I am sure we will continue to work with one another in a positive manner.
- All money coming to the school should be placed in a sealed envelope with your child’s name, correct amount of money, class and what the money is for clearly written on the front. All money should be sent directly to the front office at the school for processing.

Our School Newsletter will now be uploaded every Thursday so all parents receive information at the same time. Please refer to our website to download the weekly newsletter.

If any parent has any concerns regarding any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Kate White
Principal
Student Attendance at School

Thank you to the many parents that continue to send in notes when your child is absent from school. Our school student attendance rate is currently 93%. It is expected, as per the Department of Education and Communities attendance policy 2015 and the Education Act of 1990, that when a child returns to school after an absence, a note explaining their absence is sent to the classroom teacher. Absentee notes are again attached to this Newsletter for your convenience.

Please remember:

- 1 day off a week = 10 days a term (2 weeks - gone!)
- 1 day off a week over the period of 1 year = most of 1 term - gone!!
- If this pattern starts in Kindergarten and continues through to Year 6 almost 2 years of learning is gone!!
- If students miss days of learning they reduce the chance of achieving their academic potential.

School Contributions

School Contributions for 2016 have been set and are now due. Fees can be paid by sending cash or cheque in a sealed envelope with your child’s name, class and School Fees written on the front to the front office at school. Alternatively parents can come to the office and pay by cash, cheque or EFTPOS. The fees are:

- $50.00 (1 child)
- $90.00 (2 children)
- $120.00 (3 or more children)

There is also a $15.00 Technology levy and $15.00 resource levy payable for each child. This assists the school to purchase new resources for the children to use in the classroom.
**K-2 Easter Hat Parade/Dance/Raffle – Tuesday the 22nd of March**

The Bathurst Public School Annual Easter Hat Parade, Dance and Monster Egg Raffle will be held on Tuesday the 22nd of March from 11.40am.

To make our raffle a success we will again be asking for donations of Easter Eggs and baskets, large or small. Baskets and eggs will be collected daily during our 9.00am Assembly where the children will be acknowledged for their donations. The children can begin bringing in their donations from Monday.

We will also be having a "Sausage Sizzle Meal Deal" to coincide with our Easter Hat Parade. Children will need to pre-order their "Meal Deal". Order forms for this will be sent home shortly.

Money raised will go towards our $1000.00 annual pledge to Stewart House. We are very proud of our ongoing commitment to supporting Stewart House. Stewart House is a children's charity that provides short time respite care for children in need.

Raffle tickets will be sent home with the newsletter next week.

Thank you for your support.

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**Library News**

Students need to have a library bag or a plastic bag to borrow books. Also students can return and borrow library books during second half lunch time. During library lessons we have been reading *Ants Closeup* by Andrew Kelly and learning some interesting ant facts. We have some new books in the library, come and see our new books.

Ms Morris
INFANTS ASSEMBLY Changes

Parents of our Infants children please note that there has been a change in the timetable of which class is presenting the item.

Friday 26th February - 1S ***
Friday 11th March - 2E ***
Friday 25th March - Easter
Friday 8th March - 2/3F

*** Change from original Assembly Roster
Bathurst District Swimming Carnival

Last Friday, 45 students represented Bathurst Public School at the District Swimming Carnival. A big congratulations to all students for their participation and many achieving personal best times in their events on the day.

Congratulations to the 17 students that placed in their events and are now heading to Dubbo to represent the Bathurst District in the Western PSSA Swimming Carnival. We wish them all the best.

Our Junior Boys relay swam a tremendous race and broke the District record that has stood since 1977!! Wow! Amazing effort!

A special mention to Caiden Grimmett - Senior Boy and Angus Warne- Junior Boy who were named as their age champions at the District Carnival.

At the end of a fantastic day, Bathurst Public School also received the Overall Champion School Trophy. A super effort from all competitors on the day to achieve this! Well done.
**Term 1 2016 Calendar**

- Thursday 25\(^{th}\) February – Year 1 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Friday 26\(^{th}\) February – Year 2 and Year 1/2 Parent Teacher Interviews
- Friday 26\(^{th}\) February – Infants Assembly 1S
- Friday 4\(^{th}\) March – Western Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday 9\(^{th}\) March – Primary Assembly
- Friday 11\(^{th}\) March – Infants Assembly 2E
- Wednesday 16\(^{th}\) March – P&C Meeting and AGM 7pm in the Staffroom
- Tuesday 22\(^{nd}\) March – Easter Hat Parade
- Wednesday 23\(^{rd}\) March – AFL Paul Kelly Cup
- Wednesday 23\(^{rd}\) March – Primary Assembly
- Friday 25\(^{th}\) March – Good Friday – Public Holiday
- Monday 28\(^{th}\) March – Easter Monday Public Holiday
- Wednesday 6\(^{th}\) April – Primary Assembly
- Friday 8\(^{th}\) April – Infants Assembly 2F
- Friday 8\(^{th}\) April – Last day of Term 1

Please note changes to Infants Assembly

**Canteen Roster**

Friday 26\(^{th}\) February – M Lucas and A Bennett
Monday 29\(^{th}\) February – Volunteer Needed
Wednesday 2\(^{nd}\) March – Volunteer Needed
Thursday 3\(^{rd}\) March – Volunteer Needed

**CLOTHING POOL/LOST PROPERTY**

Our second hand uniform shop will now be open every Tuesday & Friday morning from 8.30am-9.00am or by appointment, so children have 2 opportunities to collect lost property.

We have plenty of jumpers (sizes 4-16) and an assortment of other uniform pieces all for a gold coin donation per item purchased with all money collected going back into the school for resources. All donations of second hand uniforms will be gratefully accepted and sold back into our school.

In an effort to keep our school tidier, all the uniforms in lost property will be removed and stored in the clothing pool every Tuesday & Friday morning. Children can come and collect items from me at this time. Any unclaimed items at the end of the term will be re-sold from the clothing pool.

For more information or to book a time with me to have a look, call Liz Arrow on 63342853 or 0438210748.

**THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS HAVE JUMPERS TO COLLECT FROM CLOTHING POOL.**

- Ray Cross
- Jacob Lamb Simpson(size 12)
- Poppie
- Callan Taylor

And if anyone has lost this clip I have that also.
P&C News

P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 16 March at 7pm in the school staff room. The AGM is a quick meeting to elect this year’s representatives on the P&C executive and canteen committee and release our audit reports. It will be immediately followed by our regular March meeting. All welcome!

CASUAL WORK AVAILABLE
EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEED!

Where: School Canteen
When: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Hours: 9am to 2pm (or whatever you can do)
Experience: Not necessary. We’ll show you everything you need to know.
Salary: ‘A La Carte’ lunch (healthy sandwich) and plenty of tea or coffee.

Bonus: Your child/children will be happy to see you in their favourite place - school! You get to spoil them by spending a little extra money (all for a good cause) and you get to meet new people and make good friends within the school community.

Applications close: NEVER!

Sound like the perfect job for you? Please complete the form below and send it back to the canteen or school office. Thanking you in anticipation.

Canteen Committee

Yes, I can volunteer for canteen!

Name: ___________________________________ Telephone: __________________________

Child’s name: _______________________________ Class: ___________

Please nominate the day/s you prefer to work and how often:

☐ Monday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday

☐ Weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ Monthly ☐ Once a term
Keeping our kids safe around schools

Your child's safety depends on you

Drop off and pick up by car

Make sure your children are in an appropriate child car seat that is fitted and used correctly.

Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone as children are about.

Look for buses pulling out – watch for flashing wig wag lights.

Always park and turn legally around schools. Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.

Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.

Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school’s designated drop off and pick up area. Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous – they may run to you without checking for traffic.

It’s safest for children to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to be away from passing traffic.

Walking together to and from school

Plan your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.

Always hold your child’s hand. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.

Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.

Talk with your children about Stop, Look, Listen and Think every time they cross the road.

STOP! one step back from the kerb.

LOOK! for traffic to your right, left and right again.

LISTEN! for the sounds of approaching traffic.

THINK! whether it is safe to cross.

Young children can learn these safe pedestrian habits from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.
Driving and parking safely near schools

School opening and closing hours are busy times for pedestrians and vehicles outside the school.
Always take extra care in 40km/h school zones, which operate on gazetted school days.
Park safely even if it means walking further to the school gate.
Observe all parking signs. They are planned with children’s safety in mind.
Never double park as it puts children at risk.
Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child – they will learn from you.
Slow down near the school crossing.
At a supervised crossing, observe the directions of the school crossing supervisor.
Always park and turn legally around the school.
Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.
Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
Avoid parking across the school driveway or the entrance to the school car park.
Using your school’s drop off and pick up facility will help keep all children as safe as possible during the busiest times of the school day.
Avoid parking in or near the school bus bay.
Safety around school crossings

Ensure that your child always uses the school crossing as this is the safest point of entry to the school.

Where there is a school crossing supervisor at a school crossing, pedestrians must wait on the footpath, at least one step back from the edge of the road, until the school crossing supervisor indicates that it is safe to cross.

Drivers must not proceed until the crossing supervisor’s hand-held sign is no longer displayed, or until the crossing supervisor indicates that the motorist may proceed through the crossing.

At an unsupervised children’s crossing when ‘CHILDREN CROSSING’ flags are displayed, drivers must stop at the white line if pedestrians are waiting to cross at the crossing. Drivers must remain stationary until the crossing is completely clear of pedestrians.

Drivers need to know that a children’s crossing is a part-time crossing that operates before and after school hours, and at times when children are using the crossing, such as for excursions or during lunchtimes.

40km/h school zones

The 40km/h school zone slows traffic in the vicinity of the school.

Most 40km/h school zones operate between 8am and 9.30am and from 2.30pm till 4pm. The 40km/h school zone speed limit must be observed even if school children cannot be seen.

A 40km/h school zone operates on all gazetted school days including staff development days (pupil free days).

While some schools may operate on different term dates, school zone speed limits must be adhered to during NSW Government determined school terms.

Gazetted school term dates can be found at roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au website and the websites of the NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards and the NSW Department of Education.

To increase motorists’ awareness of 40km/h school zones, triangular dragon’s teeth road markings indicate that the vehicle is entering a school zone.

Fines and demerit points

For information about fines and demerit points, visit rms.nsw.gov.au
‘Drop-off and Pick-up’
area safety tips

Safety tips for drivers using a ‘Drop-off and Pick-up’ area

- Always drop-off or pick-up your child from the designated area, following the school’s procedures.
- Drivers should remain in their vehicles at all times in the ‘Drop-off and Pick-up’ area.
- Make sure children use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car.
- Make sure the hand brake is applied when the vehicle is stationery.
- Never double park.
- Never park across a pedestrian crossing.
- Never undertake a U-turn in close proximity to the school.

Safety tips for students

- Stay buckled up until the vehicle has stopped in the ‘Drop-off and Pick-up’ area.
- Make sure your school bag and other items are in a safe position, eg on the floor.
- Be ready to get out of the car with your belongings when the car has stopped and you have unbuckled your seatbelt.
- Always get in and out of the backseat of the vehicle through the safety door – the rear footpath-side door.

Safety tips for volunteer supervisors

- Wear a conspicuous, identifying safety item such as a fluoro vest, sash and/or hat.
- Assist students to exit and enter each vehicle in turn in the ‘Drop-off and Pick-up’ area, while remaining on the footpath.
- Do not attempt to direct traffic and do not enter the road environment.

For further information www.rta.nsw.gov.au 9218 6084