



# Burren Junction PS

## Newsletter

Term 4, Week 4

Friday 29th of October, 2021

**'Look, Listen and Think'**

### From the Principal

#### **External Validation**

Each year, a group of schools are nominated by the Department of Education to participate in an external validation process. This provides an opportunity for schools to discuss their judgements about their practice – and the evidence that underpins them – with a panel of peers. Embedding effective self-assessment practices will mean that schools are well positioned to identify and annotate their most significant pieces of evidence for submission to the validation panel. 2016 was the last time that Burren Junction Public School was selected to undertake external validation.

On Tuesday, Miss Whiteley, Mrs Slack-Smith (parent representative), Mr Kelly (Principal School Leadership) and Mr Mills (Director of Education) were part of the team that supported me as we presented to Department of Education representatives the story of Burren Junction Public School.

Using a variety of evidence sources around the practices and procedures at Burren Junction Public School, the external validation panel indicated that here at Burren Junction Public School we, as a school, are working at a high level of delivery around education, teaching practice and resourcing. This was a terrific outcome for the school.

Thank you to our BJPS team for their support throughout the process and for their involvement in the panel on Tuesday.

#### **Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Survey**

Each year we undertake the Tell Them From Me surveys for students (Year 4 – Year 6), teachers and parents. This anonymous survey is an important undertaking as we plan for the next year. The parent survey is of particular importance in this process. An electronic link to the survey will go out to all families with this newsletter, and it would be terrific if all parents or families could find the time to complete the survey. The closing date for the survey is the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

The children in Year 4—Year 6, will complete their part of the survey here at school.

#### **Kindergarten Transition**

Last week was the first of four Kindergarten Transition sessions. Mrs Stump has 6 children attending each of the sessions and as you will see on page 2 of this newsletter, the children are having a marvellous time at school. Thank you to Mrs Stump for providing this opportunity for the preschool children.

#### **ICAS**

This week I conducted the last of the ICAS tests for this year. All of the tests were online and I thank Mr Boughton for his IT support throughout the process. With the online format the test results should be back at the school by early December.

All the best children!

#### **Friday Sport**

This term we have again been successful in gaining a Sporting Schools Grant. At one stage, due to the COVID restrictions, it looked like we would not be able to use the grant but with the COVID changes that came through this week we were able to start our Sporting Schools Grant for Term 4. Mr Kirk, a member of Jake Packer's company, will attend the school each Friday and work with each class on their sporting skills and development.

#### **Upcoming Dates**

2nd Nov	Parliament Fundraiser
4th Nov	Kindergarten Transition
11th Nov	Kindergarten Transition
	Remembrance Day
16th Dec	Last Day of Term for all students
8th Feb	Return to School for all students, K-6, 2022
11th Feb	School Swimming Carnival (Walgett)



# Transition 2021

Our first day of our four week transition program was a very busy, happy day and the 6 students settled in very easily. This is in part due to the care and kindness of the older children in the school and of course, also in part, due to the magnificent job the pre-school always does in preparing children for “big school”.

As well as learning some of the routines and practices of school they children ventured into the other classrooms and investigated the various corners of the school, including Mrs Schwager’s office and the staff room.

We read the big book “Monster’s Party” which the students loved and we concentrated on the sound that the letter “m” makes. We also made playdough, built lego towers based on throwing a dice and adding blocks according to the numbers thrown.

We also learned a few new songs and some outdoor games and made some very colourful crowns based on Max’s crown in the book, “Where the Wild Things Are”.

I suspect they must have been very tired by the end of the day but it was a joy to see them settle in so seamlessly into our busy school.

Mrs Lucinda Stump





### COVID restrictions update

Each week there has been some very small changes to the rules around being back at school and the COVID restrictions. At this stage assemblies are still out, so this will have an impact on Remembrance Day, which will be celebrated here at school rather than at the hall. Year 6 end of year luncheons are now allowed so Miss Coles and I will organise that and it will take place at the Hall this year. The date is yet to be advised. Currently, we have received no news around other end of year celebrations, such as Speech Day.

Whilst external sporting providers are now allowed. However, Intensive Swim Scheme, excursions and school plays are still on hold. When changes occur I will inform the school community. I thank you for your patience in this matter.

### Year 6 Parliament Fundraiser

With all the excitement amongst the children at school, as families are starting harvest, the children were keen to celebrate with their very own spring event. So, the Year 6 Parliament have come up with a unique way to celebrate, and fundraise at the same time, the excitement of spring with their very own Melbourne Cup picnic luncheon here at school. On Tuesday the children are able to attend school in mufti, for the cost of a gold coin donation, bring along a picnic blanket and partake of the \$6 pre-ordered luncheon package to enjoy a picnic lunch on the lawn here at BJPS.

*(If children don't have a picnic blanket then Ms Galvin will be able to provide suitable alternatives from her fabric stash).*

### Department Media Unit

Mr Mills and the NSW Department of Education Media Unit contacted me recently to find out about our students and their farm interests and how we promote an interest in agriculture here at school. As a result, I was able to provide them with some photos of the children at school and at home. In this newsletter I have included some of the photos that were sent to the Media Unit. Once the story goes public I will get a copy out to the community.

### Rural Access Gap

Burren Junction Melbourne Cup Luncheon

On the 2nd of November Year 6 will be hosting a Melbourne Cup Luncheon.

Mufti dress:  
gold coin  
Races Theme

Bring a picnic blanket!

PRIMO STACKERS LEG HAM  
PRIMO STACKERS MILD SALAMI

**The 3-4 class hard at work in the school gardens**



In Term 3, 2022, the school will receive one day a week of funding for technology support to operate within the school. We look forward to the start of this initiative. I have included, below, the objectives of this Department of Education initiative.

*The Rural Access Gap (RAG) is a Direct Intervention to harness the power of collaborative technologies to help close the gap in relative and absolute performance (PISA, NAPLAN, HSC and Closing the Gap 2020) between metropolitan and regional schools. Improved access to digital teaching and learning aids and collaboration tools will assist in addressing issues such as:*

- *Remoteness and isolation*
- *Access to resources*
- *Aging Distance Education platforms*
- *Inability to recruit and retain experienced teachers*
- *Uneven levels of digital literacy*

### **Department of Education (DoE) Online Assessments**

The NSW DoE has developed a number of online assessments that teachers can complete with their students and the data is then populated in the Literacy and Numeracy Progressions for each child. In the past this was limited to the Kindergarten Best Start Assessment, conducted at the start of Kindergarten. Now the teachers have a number of assessments that they can use to inform their programming and planning for the children's learning. Please find below a brief outline of these assessments:

#### **Year 1 Phonics Screening Check**

Last term, Miss Whiteley was able to complete the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check just before we went into Learning from Home.

#### **Interview for Student Reasoning (IfSR)**

Last term the teachers received training in the Interview for Student Reasoning assessment

which the DoE has developed to replace SENA tests. The teachers have been doing the assessments with the children during Term 3 and Term 4 of this year.

#### **Check In Assessments**

Last year, due to NAPLAN being cancelled, the DoE developed the Check In Assessments. This year the children in Year 3 – Year 6 will complete the assessments, with the last Check In Assessments being offered in Week 8 of this term.

#### **Semester 2 Reports**

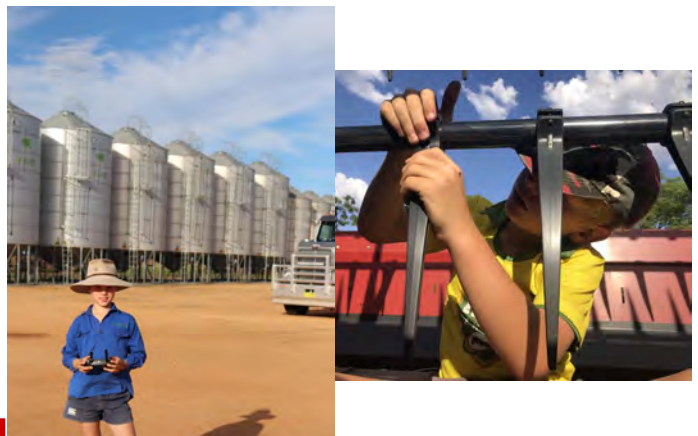
Due to the recent interruption to learning the NSW Department of Education has been granted permission from the peak advisory body, NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), to provide a modified report for Semester 2 this year. Therefore, the Semester 2 report will be the same format as the 2020, Semester 1 report. The report will not be using the A-E reporting scales and will focus on English and Mathematics with a General comment to cover the other Key Learning Areas.

#### **Memorial and Perpetual Trophies**

Last but not least, this is a call out to all families who have any of the trophies from the 2021 Speech Day. Please return to the school last year's trophies so that we can prepare them for this year's Speech Day. Thank you!

**Ms Suzanne Galvin**

**principal**



**Harry and Jamie busy on the farm!**

### **Contact Us**

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