



# BURREN JUNCTION PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**"Look, Listen and Think"**

## **From the Principal**

**Amanda Austin**



*Outstanding Parliament speeches Y5!*

Hasn't the rain been wonderful! I have a small lagoon full of noisy frogs alongside the old principal's residence and the school playground is so green it hurts the eyes- thanks to the dedication of our hardworking GA Mr Chapman. Our vegetable garden is loving the rain too and the first harvest of greens on Friday ended up in some healthy tuckshop orders.

K/1/2 behaved beautifully when failing light fittings meant a move to the Music room for lessons last Monday and Tuesday and tradesmen also repaired the leaking A/C unit in Year 3/4.

There's never a dull moment at BJPS and we've had a constant stream of interesting and talented visitors this past fortnight...

### **MAX FM COMMUNITY NEWS**

Week 8 was our last opportunity to entertain and inform local listeners on MAX FM community radio for 2023. It was Bill, Brock, Kitty, Billie and Jamie's turn to read their reports.

### **'TUCKSHOP' report by Billie**

Fridays are my favourite day, not just because it is the end of the week but because it is tuckshop at school. Delicious, tasty tuckshop!

Tuckshop at Burren Junction Public School has been running for years and years and makes money for the P&C. It is run by volunteer mums and sometimes dads on Fridays and often the senior kids help to serve morning tea and lunch. Items on the menu include pizza, chicken nuggets, cup noodles, nachos, pies, sausage rolls, wedges, wraps and a weekly special.

"Who's got any change?" can be heard early on Friday mornings in houses all around Burren as excited students write their orders on their brown paper bags and work out how much it will cost.

This year, our current Year 6 Parliament makes cupcakes on Fridays and has earned about \$50 each week which goes towards the Year 6 gift to the school. Every week, the lovely tuckshop volunteers prepare food which earns an average of about \$200 a week for the P&C. We are very grateful to the parents who do this for us. The little kids love bringing their purses and wallets to school and working out how many icy poles they can afford. It's good Maths training! And on a hot day, it's never enough!

If you are visiting our school on a Friday, I encourage you to come and check out our awesome tuckshop!

## **'MAD FOOD SCIENCE' report by Kitty**

Did you know that there is 39 grams of sugar in a can of Coke? On Tuesday, ex-Narrabri primary school teacher Ebonnie Whan, came in to promote healthy living with Year 6- which foods to watch out for and how to read the labels of foods. She represents 'The Root Cause'- a national health transformation enterprise to improve children's health throughout Australia.

Advertisers may say in the ad that "It's amazing what they squeeze into an Up and Go!" and they are right. An average person should only have 4 teaspoons of sugar a day but an Up and Go has 5 teaspoons of sugar in it, so if you have an Up and Go for breakfast you have already gone past your limit. Did you know that some poppers have also changed their label, and now they have even more sugar in them with up to 6 teaspoons?

We learnt lots about reading labels and how to watch out for foods that aren't good for us. To read the labels, you count the commas. There should only be 6 or less commas, which means there should only be 6 or less things in a packaged food. We watched a video about 2-minute noodles- they did an experiment where 1 person ate 2-minute noodles and the other person made noodles out of flour and water. They then swallowed a tiny capsule camera. The results showed that 2-minute noodles are bad and don't digest well. Bananas, strawberries, spinach, and water you are probably thinking would make a gross smoothie, but it was delicious. At first, we thought that it was going to taste disgusting. We dipped our finger in, tried it, did it again then realised it tasted surprisingly good and drank it. Everyone went back for seconds, thirds, fourths and even fifths.

Overall, it was good to learn about healthy eating and we got lots out of it. We were all amazed about the high amount of sugar in soft drinks, poppers and Up and Go's. We now all know that we need to watch out for certain foods and as Ebonnie said: "We have only one body for life".



*Rudolph with his roo recruits - John, birthday boy Ned and Frank*

## **'SUSSING OUT the SOLAR SYSTEM' report by Brock**

Last Wednesday, Samantha visited Burren Junction Public School to present 'Sussing Out Our Solar System'- a combination of fun, facts and theories about our Earth, past and present and its place in the solar system. It was fascinating, factual, and funny! The presenter was loud and clear, and with every fact there was always a bit of humour to it. Samantha used puppets, which looked like aliens and props of each planet and moon to tell the story of how the earth was formed and how it has an invisible shield protecting it from meteorites which might hit it.

We learned some interesting facts: for example, the shield did not protect early Earth from a Supernova which impacted our Earth so hard that it tilted it off its axis and gave us our seasons. It is thought that a colossal Supernova once struck Uranus turning it completely on its side. We also learned about the Big Bang Theory and that the planets are all surrounded by moons. Did you know that Jupiter has 72 moons! Wow and we have only one. In fact, two weeks ago another moon was discovered in Jupiter's orbit. Saturn's rings are made out of dust particles. Our teacher wishes the dust in our classroom could make such an amazing sight!

A scary fact was that the Sun is going to run out of fuel in approximately 30 billion years. Maybe that isn't so scary because I don't think any of us will be around to see it!

We all agreed that the show was entertaining and very informative.

What next for Burren? A Christmas Concert! All these performances, what a lucky school!



*Lilly, Spencer, Kitty and Bill acting on stage*





*"Get down low and go, go, go!" with Steve*



*Thank you Mr Gardiner and Mr Powell*



*Y5/6 (and the teachers) learned a lot about fighting fires and fire behaviour.*



*Kitty and Matilda were delighted to be the first to sample our school garden greens at Mon assembly*



*Our stand-in parliament for Friday's assembly due to heavy rain thank you Kitty, Nala, Fred, Harry and Jamie for stepping up!*



*Dougie received the Parliament Award*



*Week 7 assembly awardees - Emma, Maggie, Clancy, Tabitha, Nala and Kitty. Well done!*



*Bentley received the Parliament award off Brock*



*Week 6 assembly awardees - Scarlett, Ned, Sam, Lilly, Fred and Harry L, Great work!*





Charlie reading like a champ with Ali



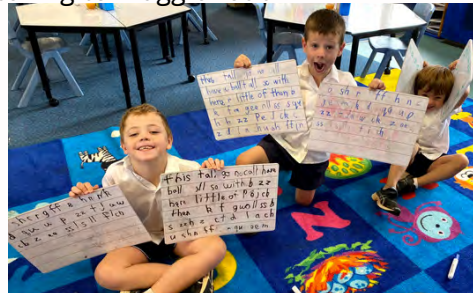
Thanks Harper for doing a great job listening to Maggie read



Harry mastering some tricky words with Ellie



Jade and Tommy enjoying listening to Emma read



Awesome writing Kindies - Dougie, Clancy and Billy!



Ralphie likes reading to Cath



Christmas cheer at the bus stop - Shelly is Amazing!



Mr Huff grew to be huge!



Olivia, Asher and Aggie looking very tall!



Cooling off and calculating capacity - Dougie, Angus, Maggie and Lilly



Clancy, Sam, Asher and Spencer with their impressive engineering works



Water is fun! Ralphie, Asher, Mac, Spencer and Sam trying out the new pond table



## **'RUDOLPH'S RECRUITS' AND 'MR HUFF'**

### **report by Bill**

"Awwwwwww!" was the reaction by everyone, including teachers, last Thursday when the performance ended. Two very talented actors came from Sydney all the way to our small school to perform the pantomime, 'Rudolph's Recruits'. It was funny and very enjoyable. Crystal and Tim were wonderful performers who definitely have a thing for acting. Everyone in the school loved the performance!

From Kindy to Year 6, it was enjoyable for everyone. Some people nearly fainted at the humorous puns and jokes.

The play was about the presumptuous reindeer, Rudolph. All of Santa's reindeer (except for Rudolph) got the flu just before Christmas so Santa sent him to Australia to find some extra sleigh pullers. Everyone warned Rudolph of the crafty dingo. Whilst this was happening, the dingo was pretending to be Rudolph and telling all the animals that Rudolph didn't need any more sleigh pullers. Eventually, he found out, stopped dingo, and told the sleigh pullers there were more spots. It was a happy ending after all!

Crystal and Tim are actors with Meerkat Productions based in Sydney. Tim has been working there for a year while Crystal has for two. Crystal played Rudolph and kookaburra, while Tim played emu, mum, Santa, dingo and kangaroo. Some of the other characters were puppets like kookaburra, emu, and koala.

We warmly thanked Tim and Crystal for their performance and coming all this way to our little school.

Children were laughing left to right. 'It was reeaaaaally funny,' said Angus

'It was so good!' said Billie with great enthusiasm.

'It was funny, cool and fantastic!' exclaimed Nala.

We loved the performance and afterwards during discussion and question time, they even taught us about acting and how to become one. There was 100% satisfaction across all years. It reminded everyone that Christmas is just around the corner and to keep persevering.

We dearly thank Crystal and Tim for performing for us teaching us and coming all this way. Children love every second from start to finish. We wish them and you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

## **FIRE SAFETY TALKS**

Last week, we had visitors of a different kind when Capt Steve Gardiner and Mr Christian Powell turned up in their hi-vis yellow uniforms to present talks on Fire Safety to the K/1/2s and Years 3-6. We heard many interesting anecdotes about John Deere header fires, stomping out small fires with boots on, bonfires and the three fires in Burren this year- luckily, all soon extinguished!

K/1/2 students practised 'Get down low and go, go, go!' if they ever wake up in a smoky room and 'Stop, drop and roll!' if their clothing catches alight. They learned never to hide and keep shouting their names and 'Help!' in an emergency. The highlight was dressing up and receiving their very own helmet, sticker, badge and activity pack to take home.

Years 3-6 enjoyed dressing up too and learned about fire behaviour, weather effects, Aboriginal cultural burning, fuel loads, hazard reduction, communication systems and volunteering. Questions went well into lunch time and we're proud to have an eager bunch of future recruits at BJPS to keep our community safe.

## **ATTENDANCE - RAIN EXEMPTIONS**

The recent heavy falls of rain caused low attendance numbers, particularly on Mon Nov 20th, on 54% and Friday Nov 24th on 45%. It's been many, many months since we experienced rain like that and staff are refreshing the list of activities students can do if rained in at home.

Remember to -

- reply on app for absence due to wet weather
- do online school work
- fill in form found in app
- class teacher to sign off on it
- principal to sign off on it
- rolls will then change leave to exemption.

## CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Ironically, with so many cars and utes covered in mud from the rain, PM Frank and his mum Prue couldn't get into school last Thursday with the Gerni to spruce them up! The Student Parliament fundraiser has been postponed until this Thursday, 7th Dec and the weather forecast is looking very hot and dry. Ring and book now so your car will sparkle like a Christmas tree!

## MORAMBILLA CAROLS ON NORTON - SYDNEY

Emmy and Fred are very excited to have been hand-picked to perform at Carols on Norton with Leichhardt Espresso Chorus on December 17th 2023. This is sure to be a musically spectacular, fun-filled festive performance. What a wonderful achievement - best of luck!



*Playing 'round the world' at recess - needs speed and coordination!*



*3 gorgeous emus - Tabitha, Nala and Rachel*



*The wise kookaburra caught the crafty dingo out*

## YEAR 5 STUDENT PARLIAMENT SPEECHES

To become active citizens and ensure that young Australians become engaged with the electoral process, it is essential that all students from a young age understand how our Parliament works. The Student Parliament at BJPS aims to:

- Replicate the Australian system of government
- Teach students about electoral and parliamentary processes
- Create a mini-democracy within the school, driven by student voice
- Immerse students in a continual civics activity
- Generate a long-term, whole-of-school civics education initiative.

Last Wednesday, the School Council refreshed the roles and responsibilities of the Student Parliament to assist Year 5 students in deciding their portfolio preferences over the weekend in discussion with their parents and perhaps older siblings.

An online random name picker determined the order of speakers and students' names and photos on the ballot slips.

Year 5 parents joined our special assembly Tuesday morning to hear the election speeches. All students K-Year 6 and teaching staff voted for their top chosen candidates and absentee voting was allowed. As polling officer, I counted the votes with scrutineer Sally from the preschool and will keep the results secret until the big announcement on Presentation Day.

Due to the make-up and numbers of incoming cohorts, some of the Parliamentary processes were also updated:

- Include House Captain as a preference so that they can also be announced on Presentation Day and have more time to prepare before the Swimming Carnival, held early Term 1
- Allow the Deputy PM to also run for House Captain
- K/1/2 and Y3/4 students will take turns each term as the Student Representative Council member to raise concerns and suggestions from their classmates at Parliament meetings
- Deputy PM will mentor SRC students
- Include the option of also self-nominating as a Library Monitor or Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Everyone was greatly impressed by the high quality of speeches and we know you'll make us proud!

## **Week 10- the fun finale to 2023!**

### **Mon Dec 11th- BURREN JUNCTION COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

Rehearsals are underway and we're honing our performances for the Burren Junction Festive Season Celebration on Monday. Burren Progress Inc. has organised a fantastic evening of activities, treats and carols for young and old so please come along! Included with this newsletter is an optional gift tag to attach to a donated present to place under the Kmart 'Giving Tree' to help those less fortunate in our community.

Help spread the Christmas spirit- it's going to be amazing!

### **Tue Dec 12th - YEAR 6 FAREWELL LUNCHEON**

Year 6 will arrive dressed to impress in their new high school uniforms and at a special morning assembly, give everyone an insight into the exciting times ahead for them in 2024. At recess, they will change for a photo opportunity and group transport to 'Carbeen' for a farewell luncheon with parents, staff and former teachers, generously hosted by Kitty's parents, Keiran and John Knight. It's sure to be a memorable day!

### **Tue Dec 12th- RED CROSS PILLOWCASE PROJECT**

While Year 6 is feasting and frolicking, Years 2-5 will be busy participating in The Red Cross' 'Pillowcase Program'.

It was originally inspired by events during Hurricane Katrina in the US in 2005. While evacuating a local university, students used pillowcases to carry their cherished and basic possessions. After hearing this, American Red Cross staff developed the concept of using a pillowcase as an emergency kit and it quickly grew into a global preparedness education program.

Delivered by Red Cross volunteers and staff, the workshop encourages children to be active participants in their own emergency preparedness and the content is useful for all kinds of emergencies. It helps to reduce real and imagined fears and has successfully built children's stress management skills.

Each student is then given a pillowcase to decorate and take home, to start their own personal emergency kit.

For more information:

<https://www.redcross.org.au/pillowcase-workshops/>

### **Wed Dec 13th- PRESENTATION DAY**

The script is being finalised, speeches are being prepared, the lectern dusted, certificates printed, badges polished and trophies and medals are being engraved. Presentation Day is just around the corner! I caught a glimpse today of Mr Hjort rehearsing his original play with Stage 3 and can't wait to see it!

### **SWIMMING**

Friday was our last day of swimming for sport for the term as Miss Conomos is away this week and in Week 10 we're heading to Lightning Ridge Aquatic Centre for our end-of-year Picnic Day with Rowena PS.

### **Thu Dec 14th- 'LIGHTNING RIDGE AQUATIC CENTRE PICNIC DAY' report by Jamie:**

"Woohoo! Splish, splash, splosh! This is amazing!"

In Week 10, the whole school is going to Lightning Ridge Aquatic Centre for the day. We're all very excited to ride the water slides and swim in the pools. It's very good value for a day's entertainment and we will have lots of fun, including a BBQ lunch, drinks and snacks.

And let's not forget about the humongous diving boards! Did you know that Lightning Ridge had world class diving facilities made so that Olympic divers could practice there? I can only imagine how exhilarating it will be to stand on top of the 10 metre diving board.

Will I be brave? Or will I chicken out?

We are very lucky to be going there on our end of year Picnic Day.

I can't wait and I know the other kids are excited too!

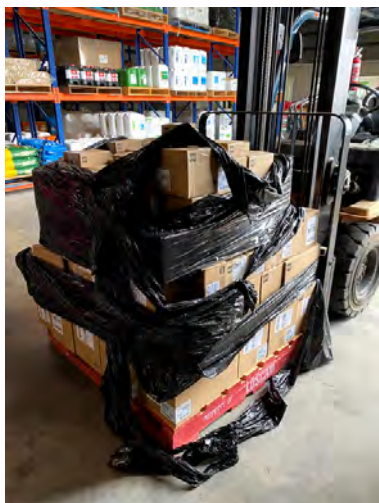
### **Fri Dec 15- YEAR 6 FINAL FUN DAY**

The very last event for 2023 is the Year 6's Final Fun Day with all sorts of exciting activities planned for the afternoon.

Friday was the first official day of summer and to celebrate the start of the festive season, we hope all students enjoyed the special little treat handed out after assembly.

Enjoy the countdown to Christmas everyone!





*I wonder what Steve at Delta has been secretly storing for us...?*



*Y3/4 enjoyed the talk too*

## WEBSITE PHOTOS

All these photos and more are on our website:  
<https://burrenjunc-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/gallery.html>



## Contact Us

(Tel) 02 6796 1464 (Fax) 02 6796 1458 Website  
 Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.45 to 3.30pm

## Sentral App Calendar



### Term 4

#### December

- 11 Burren Junction Festive Season Celebration
- 12 Year 6 Luncheon - hosted by the Knight family at "Carbeen", Red Cross Pillowcase Program Y2-5
- 13 Presentation Day 9.30am
- 14 End of Year Picnic Day - Lightning Ridge Aquatic Centre
- 15 K-6 Final Fun Day afternoon organised by Year 6
- 15 Preschool Presentation Day
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day

### Term 1 2024

#### February

- 6 Staff Development Day
- 7 Staff Development Day
- 8 First day of term for all students
- 14 Swimming Carnival - Narrabri (TBC)
- 23 Zone Swimming Carnival - Narrabri
- 26 School Council Meeting

#### March

- 11 North West Primary Swimming - Armidale
- 21 Moorambilla visit
- 13 -25 NAPLAN
- 25 School council AGM
- 28 Easter hat parade
- 29 Good Friday
- 30 Easter Saturday
- 31 Easter Sunday

#### April

- 1 Easter Monday
- 3 Primary boys and girls touch trials
- 4 Primary boys cricket trials
- 6-7 Walgett Show
- 9 Primary girls cricket trials
- 12 Last Day of term



**Education**

Email: [burrenjunc-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:burrenjunc-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)