From the Associate Principal’s Desk

My School Website

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (acara) will be releasing the online My School website (https://www.myschool.edu.au/) in early March 2016. This website provides a summary of Year 3 and 5’s performance in literacy and numeracy based on NAPLAN testing in 2015. From our analysis of the data we are pleased to say that we have met our target of increasing overall achievement in NAPLAN results to be within the top 30% of statistically similar “like schools” as per My School website data comparisons in all areas and year levels.

In the context of data driven planning, it is important to note that in Term 4, 2105 teachers undertook a thorough analysis of NAPLAN data. This is an important part of the teaching and learning cycle, where we are constantly adjusting our teaching practice to accommodate issues relating to year levels, learning areas and individual students. At the core of this analysis we focus on individual gaps in learning and progress over time. This information is summarized and passed onto their new teacher in 2016 to ensure a smooth transition from year to year.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2016

Students in Year 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN test in Term 2, Week 3 from Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12 March. This nationwide test provides as a snap shot of student’s achievement in comparison to all students of the same year level across the country. They assist teachers to better identify students who require additional support or enrichment. Students and parents can also use individual results to discuss achievement with teachers.

The results support schools to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs. Our Department of Education also gains information to help evaluate programs and allocate resources.

At school we are use the Department of Education NAPLAN Planner to inform our teaching and we expose our students to the format, language, response type and time constraints of the tests. It is important to note that we avoid excessive rehearsing of previous NAPLAN tests as we believe good teaching practice will allow student’s true ability to shine through.

Next week we will send out an information brochure for parents from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority which should answer any further questions. If you are still unsure about anything relating to the testing process, please contact the school.

School Business Plan 2016 – 2018

As you may be aware in 2015, the Department of Education Services reviewed our school’s performance against our Business Plan and the Delivery and Performance Agreement. This was a very positive experience which acknowledged our effectiveness as a school and the close working relationship with parents and the wider community. From this process and school based self-review in the latter half of 2015, we have been working on developing a new Business Plan for 2016 – 2018. A draft copy has now been presented to the School Board and will be refined over this term. At this stage our aim is to deliver this to parents in Term 2.

School Evacuation Procedures

As you may be aware, schools across Australia have received threatening phone calls via recorded message recently. In all cases these have proved to be hoaxes; however, we are not prepared to take any chances with the safety of students or staff. In the event of any such threats, Western Australian public schools have been instructed to follow emergency management plans including evacuating the school and calling police. Last week we had a practice drill which is an annual Department of Education requirement. This is to ensure all personnel on our site are familiar with our procedures.

Philip Bradshaw
25th February 2016
Frozen Fruit Cups – Cold Hands Warm Hearts!

A theme that we have running through our Year 2 Room 21 class at Burrendah PS this term is Superheroes and ‘everyday heroes’. As part of this theme we are teaching that the qualities of heroes encompass the Burrendah school values as well as many other virtues. The children all worked at home with their parents to cut up and bring in fruit that they had donated. Mrs O’Donnell donated cups, spoons and fruit juices. Together with some very helpful mums who donated their time, we created delicious and nutritious frozen fruit cups.

Our students became everyday heroes by selling these frozen fruit cups in their lunch break and raised some money for the victims of the recent bushfires by donating all proceeds to the Lord Mayor’s Distress Relief Fund. The grand total raised came to $107.60. We thank all the children who bought a fruit cup for a good cause and thank the children who donated their $1 even when we had sold out of fruit cups.

Mrs O’Donnell

From the School Board

At the end of last year Barb Frey, our wonderful Board Chair stepped down from the Board to take up an exciting career opportunity in New Zealand. Barb has chaired our school board since 2013 and has brought her love of learning, her science expertise and deep commitment to supporting students, parents and the wider community. We are sad to see Barb go but wish her all the very best in her new life across the waters.

At last night’s Board meeting, the Board voted on a new Chair and as a community representative and current Board member I was honoured to be appointed to the role. I hope to bring my community connections, experience working with children’s developmental needs and lifelong love of learning and reading to our wonderful school to continue our vision of empowering students to achieve their potential in a safe and supportive learning environment.

As a Board we welcome new parent representatives Kate Floyd, Shaun Swarbrick and teachers Will Heron and Gail Mc Lay and look forward to their involvement and contribution.

For our first meeting of the school year, the Board reviewed the draft Business Plan and our discussion focussed on our school’s emphasis on the development of the whole child - academically, socially, emotionally and physically and how to emphasise these in our plan’s indicators. We also looked at the current student numbers and class sizes and how we may seek extra funding to support student numbers which have increased since the census date. As a standing agenda item, we were presented with the school’s finance report which showed us to be on track for this time of the year. Parent representative Grant updated the Board on a great initiative we are looking into called the Fathering Project - “Helping Men be better Dads” schools’ program that aims to promote the important role of father figures through enjoyable social events.

As a Board member and new Chair I and would be delighted to hear from you. If you would like to know more about the Board’s activities or have thoughts you’d like to share please don’t hesitate to send me an email.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Term 1.

Warm regards,
Jane Barker
Board Chair
E: jane@pjgroup.com.au
**Toys/Personal Belongings**

Parents are asked NOT to send toys to school. Loss, damage or theft of toys causes distress and the school does not accept responsibility for toys or personal belongings at school. This includes collectable cards.

If toys are required for news telling they must be left with the class teacher during the day.

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**Leaving School During the Day**

If a student is to be absent from school for part of the day, a ‘Student Leave Pass’ must be issued from the office. Parents will need to sign the student out. Office staff will organize for students to come to the school office.

Kindergarten and Pre-Primary students still need to be signed out, but parents are to collect their children after this has been done. The leave pass must be carried by the parent/guardian whilst they are away from the school site.

Students leaving on a weekly basis for educational reasons such as PEAC can be covered by one written explanation and leave pass per term, however it is still a requirement for parents to sign in and sign out their child each day.

**Classroom Access**

Throughout the school day parents must come through the office and ‘sign in’ before going to classrooms. Parents are asked not to go directly to the classrooms for any reason to avoid disrupting the learning program and to ensure the security of classrooms. Note - if we are required to evacuate the school, it is essential we know who is on our premises.

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**Sun Safe**

In the interests of children’s well-being, health and safety it has been agreed that **hats should be worn during all outside activities in the sun**.

The ‘No Hat No Play in the Sun’ policy means that children are required to play in the undercover area if they do not wear a suitable hat.

Students are encouraged to wear sunscreen and hats during recess, lunch breaks and sport sessions. Whilst staff exercise as much care as possible, the provision of sunscreen and appropriate hats are seen to be a parent responsibility.

In 2016 every child is asked to have a named school uniform hat. These hats are available from the front office or the Willetton Uniform Shop.

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**Morning Tea / Lunches**

Parents are reminded that with the later lunch time of 1:05pm, it is imperative that children are given a substantial morning tea to see them through till 1:05pm when they will eat lunch. Please ensure your child has a morning tea and it is sufficient to sustain them to 1:05pm. Children cannot concentrate on their learning if they are hungry.

Kindergarten and Pre Primary children will have a separate fruit time.

The school endorses the Department’s Healthy Eating Policy and we ask parents to ensure the morning tea you provide is healthy and has a minimal amount of processed packaged foods. These commercially packed foods generally offer limited nutritional value, are difficult for children to open and create excess litter around the school. Parents are encouraged to include fruit and vegetables in their children’s lunch boxes. Lollies and chocolates are not appropriate for school lunch boxes, and no nuts or nut pastes are to be included in school lunch boxes due to some of our students having life threatening allergies.

Each classroom adopts a form of the “crunch and sip” program to ensure students have a healthy fruit and vegetable snack at some time in the school day. Your class teacher would of I explained this in your parent meeting.

If parents are needing to bring their child’s lunch to school, please go to the front office and the child will be asked to collect it from there.

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**Playgrounds Before and After School**

Students are reminded they are not to play on the playground equipment before school. We request that all parents and students who arrive at school before 8.30am wait in the undercover area until the hand bell rings.

Students are not to play on playground equipment after school unless they are supervised by their parents or care givers. Please note there is no supervision of students after school by school staff.
HELP!!!

Do you have access to a drone camera??
We are looking for someone in our school community who owns, or has access to a drone camera to come to Burrendah on Friday 18 March to take an aerial photo of the whole school group on Harmony Day.

If you have a drone camera, or can borrow one .... and would be happy to donate your time to help us out at our special Harmony Day celebrations, please contact Chris Tweddle, Beatriz Clark or Julie Scaramella at school on 9332 3700.

WANTED

If you have any spare Halloween props that you would like to donate to our school fair haunted classroom - please bring to them to Room 15

Miss Marlow is also looking for volunteers who would like to help with the making of extra props for the classroom which would include:

* Snacks
* Cakes and biscuits
* Classroom Decorations
* Signage
**WANTED**

Garden rocks suitable for edging/stepping stones to use in the Kindy playground.

Our groundsman, Anthony, has asked whether any families would like to donate a fruit tree or any seeds they don't need anymore. If so, he would be happy to take them off your hands.

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**Harmony Day**

March 18 2016

Harmony Day Assembly and Family picnic

The Harmony Day assembly will be run by Year 3 Room 23 and Room 25. It is a special assembly where we celebrate our school's cultural diversity. This year's motto is-

**We Stand Together in Peace.**

For those new to Burrendah Primary School, the Harmony Day picnic is one of the highlights of our calendar. Parents bring a picnic lunch to share with their children and join other families and teachers on the lawn of our school as part of our celebration.

Wearing of cultural dress is encouraged for students and parents on the day. Students will be asked to wear orange, the Harmony Day colour, if they do not have cultural dress to wear.

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**EAL/D Parent Network Group**

Do you speak another language?

Do you come from a different cultural background?

Then the EAL/D Parent Network Group would love you to join us!

**First Session** - This week, 26 February

9:00 am  Sharing getting to know one another

**Other dates for Term 1**

11th March, 9:00 am – Positive communication with your children

8th April, 9:00 am – Holiday activities and venues for the family which are free

The EAL/D Parent Network Group meets in the EAL/D room. It is a social group and a good place to meet other parents.

Chris Tweddle, Beatriz Clark & Carol Wilby
EAL/D teachers

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**PSC Second Hand Uniform Shop**

Open Friday Morning
8.15am - 9.00am
Contact Clare Wood 0400 724 535

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**Diary Dates**

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<td>26th February</td>
<td>EAL/D Parent Network Meeting</td>
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<td>4th March</td>
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<td>8th March</td>
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