**National Assessment Program**

Last Thursday Burnside was recognized in the Daily Telegraph for being one of the top 50 ‘high gain’ NSW schools in NAPLAN. This represents the growth or value-added of students from Year 3 to Year 5. This is an outstanding achievement and testament to the sustained effort of staff, parents and students.

This year students in Years 3 and 5 will complete the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) from 12th – 14th May. The students are assessed in the following areas: Language Conventions, Writing, Reading and Numeracy.

There is a website where you can find out more information about the program and obtain copies of similar assessments. The web address is [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)

**School Fees – now overdue**

Thank you for the prompt payment of school fees. I ask that any outstanding accounts be paid as soon as possible as they are now overdue. Cheques should be made payable to Burnside Public School.

**Family Fun Night**

The first Family Fun Night is planned for Friday, 20th March. This promises to be a great event and I encourage everyone to come along. It is an opportunity for all our new families to meet others and to enjoy the Burnside community spirit. Events will commence at 5.30pm and conclude by 8.30pm. There will be entertainment for all the family and a variety of foods/drinks will be on sale. Please note that parents must accompany their children on this occasion.

**High School Enrolment 2015**

High School Expression of Interest (EOI) forms were sent home to all students in Year 6 on Monday 9th March. These forms must be completed for every student regardless of which school selected or applied for and returned by Friday 20th March. For more information please contact Mrs. Sansom or myself.

**Easter Hat and Crazy Hair Day**

Attached is a note providing details of this event. In short, K to 2 students are asked to wear Easter hats and 3 – 6 students are asked to do something crazy with their hair. Everyone is asked for a gold coin donation and funds raised will go to Stewart House.
Harmony Day
Burnside will be celebrating Harmony Day on Monday 30th March. This is a day when we can celebrate our cultural diversity. The message for Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. All children and staff are asked to wear orange or dress in a traditional costume. It is compulsory to wear closed shoes. (No sandals or thongs) There will be a parade of students at 9.00am and parents are encouraged to attend this colourful event.

ICAS Competitions
Students in Years 3 – 6 have the opportunity of entering the English, Mathematics and Science competitions. The competition dates are:
Science - Wednesday 3rd June
English - Wednesday 28th July
Mathematics - Wednesday 11th August

Please return the permission note and payment ($8 per test) by Thursday, 26th March.

Support Programs
We are fortunate to have the following support programs available at Burnside. Students receiving EAL/D or LST were recently given a note informing their parents.

EAL/D (English as an additional language or dialect) - Lama Kort, Mercia Millingham and Bal Josan provide support to students new to Australia with English needs. EAL/D takes place on Monday and Thursday.

LST (Learning and Support Teacher) - Mercia Millingham provides intervention support to students identified by teachers as requiring help mainly in literacy. LST takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Maths Enrichment - Janene Morrin provides maths extension work (including Maths Olympiad) for students in Years 3 – 6. Students are selected following assessment. This program takes place on Tuesday.

Congratulations
To Ava P, Lucy R, Laura G, Dorothy W who were also selected to represent Parramatta/Merrylands PSSA at the Sydney West soccer trials.

Life Education Program
All students are expected to participate in the Life Education Program to be held in Week 9. This is an integral component of the PD, Health, and PE curriculum. There will also be a P & C organised ‘Healthy Breakfast’ taking place on Monday 23rd March. Students are to bring their own bowl and spoon. Parents are most welcome to join in as there will be ample cereals, fruit, tea and coffee.

Please complete the permission note sent home earlier and return with payment.

The timetable for lessons in the van is listed below. Students will be in Grade groupings:
Monday - 5, 4, 2
Tuesday - 6, K, 3
Wednesday - 4, 1 (19 students), 1 (23 students)

There are a number of products that can be purchased during the visit and these are listed below. If you wish to purchase something, please provide the correct money in an envelope with the item written on the face of the envelope with your child’s name and class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold Hand Ball</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sticky Note Pad</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Key Ring</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Harold Soft Toy</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peter Catliffe
Principal

P & C News
If you have not done so already, please complete the attached survey and return it to the school as soon as possible. This will help with planning future workshops.

Good number sense
Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don't add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them.

You are invited to our

EASTER HAT AND CRAZY HAIR PARADE

on

THURSDAY 2nd APRIL 2015 at 9:30am

K-2 will proudly parade their Easter hats which can be made at home. For those parents who struggle with such things, a paper plate as a base is always a good place to start. You and your child could decorate an existing hat with crepe paper or use a card ring around the head as a head band which could be decorated.

The kindy students will also be making an Easter hat with their buddies at school.

Please do not include too many chocolate eggs in your creation as chocolate running into the hair and down the face is not a good look!!!!

3-6 are asked to decorate their hair in a CRAZY way. This hairdo must be created at home. You can use hair colour, ribbons, foil, curlers, wigs (always a favourite) or just fluff it up with spray and a brush

At 9:30am, all classes will parade their hats (K-2) and creative hairstyles (3-6).

Students are asked to bring a gold coin.

ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TO STEWART HOUSE

We look forward to seeing you all and wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Ms Bea Gliozerys
Dear parents

Late last year we asked if any parents would be interested in attending parenting workshops at the school. We had a fairly good response that seemed to indicate interest in the idea and to that end are looking at putting together a calendar of events starting next term.

The survey is now being circulated in case any parents who did not complete it last year, would like to nominate their areas of interest. If you have already completed the survey please disregard this notice. Note also, that non-completion of the survey does not mean you cannot attend the events in the future, just that you are not able to influence the day, time or topic.

_______________________________

About the Survey

Burnside P and C is made up of parents who want to find new ways to support parents and the school community as our children progress through the school.

One idea we have had is to run parenting workshops at the school in the evening that combine some new information and support with a chance to meet and get to know each other.

The purpose of this survey is to find out whether this is something you might be interested in, and if so, how it could be organised to be most accessible.

The survey should take less than 5 mins to complete, your details will be de-identified and any information you provide will be used solely by the P and C for the purpose of organising workshops. If you would like to complete electronically please go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KGHM5G6 or complete the paper survey and return to the drop box near the office, office or your child’s classroom. Thank you.

1. How interested are you in attending parenting workshops at the school?
   a. A lot
   b. Somewhat
   c. Not interested

2. Have you attended parenting workshops in the past, and if so, did you find them beneficial?
   a. Have not attended
   b. Attended, very beneficial
   c. Attended, somewhat beneficial
   d. Attended, not at all beneficial

3. What parenting workshops would you be interested in attending?
   a. Parenting/ behaviour management
   b. Teen/ tween issues and parenting
   c. Transition to high school
   d. Self esteem and resilience
   e. Building strong relationships with your kids
   f. Cyber danger
   g. Other
4. What would be a convenient start time for you?
   a. 6
   b. 6.30
   c. 7
   d. 7.30

5. What would be a convenient finish time for you?
   a. 7.30
   b. 8
   c. 8.30
   d. 9
   e. 9.30

6. How long would you like the session length to be (allowing a half hour or so for coffee/ cake after the session)
   a. 1.5 hours
   b. 2 hours
   c. 2.5 hours

7. What would make it appealing for you to attend the sessions
   a. Quality information and presenters
   b. Meeting other parents
   c. Supper
   d. A suitable start and finish time
   e. Local venue
   f. Other ______________

8. What would prevent you from attending
   a. Not interested
   b. Too busy
   c. Childcare
   d. Other ____________

9. Would you be prepared to pay a small fee to attend a group? (Up to $5?)
   a. Yes
   b. No

10. Do you have any area of expertise you would be happy to present on or assist with?
    a. __________________________

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey.

If you are interested in attending other parenting groups (not through the school) check out the Resourcing Parents website that provides information on many of the parenting groups running throughout Sydney and NSW. (http://www.resourcingparents.nsw.gov.au/Event/Search/Parents?district=4&sort=date)