



# BILPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Excellence in Learning and Technology

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Term 1 Week 10

Tuesday, 2nd April 2013

### Dates to Remember

#### 2013

##### Term 1

2nd April	P & C meeting 7.30pm
3rd April	School assembly 2.45 pm
4th April	AASC - Gymnastics
5th April	School Cross Country
8th April	Yr 6 Transition Day - Colo HS
12th April	AASC - Gymnastics
12th April	Last day of Term 1

##### Term 2

29th April	Staff Development Day
30th April	Staff Development Day
1st May	Students return
7th May	P & C meeting 7.30pm
10th May	Small Schools Cross Country
14th May	Yr 3 & Yr 5 NAPLAN - Language & Writing
15th May	Yr 3 & Yr 5 NAPLAN - Reading
16th May	Yr 3 & Yr 5 NAPLAN - Numeracy

### Cross Country

Our cross country events will be held this Friday 5th April. Races will be held in the school grounds (weather permitting) and commence around 10am. We will start with Junior races followed by Juveniles and then 11 Years and Seniors. As always we are looking forward to lots of parents coming along to support their children. Our canteen will be open for recess which will be at the conclusion of our races.

### Best Start Reports

Kindergarten parents will receive the Best Start Assessment Reports for their children this week. Parents will be able to arrange an interview with Mrs Shields and Mrs Carroll to discuss the results, but may also wish to wait till Term 2 interviews when information on our school reports can also be included in discussions.

### Reports

Student reports will be sent home in Week 2 of Term 2, with the opportunity for parents to bring it along to an interview in the preceding weeks. Our second report will go home at the beginning of Term 4, once again to give parents an opportunity to talk to class teachers before the end of the school year.

### Year 6 Colo High Transition

Our Year 6 will be going to Colo High next Monday for the first of their Transition Days. They experience 5 lessons during the day. They will also have the opportunity to meet students from some other local schools and catch up with Bilpin students now in Year 7.

### District and Regional Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Mallory and Laura who competed at the Small Schools and the Hawkesbury District Swimming Carnival. Laura was placed 1st in the junior girls breaststroke and 2nd in the 9 years girls freestyle and junior girls medley. Laura represented Hawkesbury District at the Regional Carnival and swam very competitively gaining a 4th place in the junior girls breaststroke and 9th in 9 year girls freestyle.



### Hawkesbury Show

Our students artworks have been entered in the Hawkesbury Show. As always we look forward to seeing them on display at the show and hope we have some prize winners from the colourful pieces.



Year 2/3 students learning the art of sushi making.

#### P & C Meeting

2nd April 2013

The Staff Room 7.30pm

#### Bilpin Public School P & C Committee are as follows

President	Darryl Carle	4567 1018	<i>Please feel free to contact any of these representatives if you have any concerns you wish to discuss</i>
Vice President	Heidi Wilson	4567 0070	
Treasurer	Nicole McEvoy	4567 1351	
Secretary	Nikki Wheen	4567 1154	

## Premiers Reading Challenge

We have been overwhelmed by the number of students who have decided to participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge this year.

There are a number of students who have already read their first 5 books and will be receiving their certificates at the next school assembly. These students are Xavier, Juliet, Olivia, Cassie, Jack, Lily, Lexie, Sean, Ryley and Elijah. Congratulations and keep on reading.

Mr Hynds and Mrs Oram

## Catholic Scripture

It has been unfortunate that the students in the Catholic Scripture group have not had a teacher this term. At the moment the organiser for Catholic Scripture has not been able to find someone to replace Mr Schmitt. The students in Catholic Scripture have been supervised by the staff with the non-scripture group.

## ANZAC Ceremony

We will be holding our ANZAC Day Ceremony at 12 noon on Thursday 11th April. Students are encouraged to bring along flowers for the ceremony. Parents are also invited to attend.

## Mufti Day

On Friday 12th April we will be having a mufti day. Students can wear appropriate clothing other than school uniform, but **must** have closed in shoes.

## Uniform Order

Just a reminder that the order form and monies **MUST** be returned to Mrs Chapman in the school office no later than Friday 12th April. Cheques need to be made payable to the Bilpin Public School P&C Association.

There are sample winter uniforms at school that can be used to help select the correct size of clothing when ordering for your children. Please see Mrs Chapman for assistance. There is also a large amount of second hand clothing items for sale.

## TomahROMA

On Saturday 27th April we are hosting a cake and soup stall at Mt Tomah Botanical Gardens, TOMAHROMA Festival. We would like to ask parents to bake and donate muffins or cup cakes as they are easier to sell when in patty cake papers. Cake boxes are available for parents to utilise and can be collected from the school office.

We intend to sell the cakes/muffins for \$1.00 each so please bake to the larger size. The event runs from 7.30am till 3pm and the stall will be operating all day. If you are to able assist on the day please contact Nicole McEvoy 4567 1351. Cakes can be dropped to the school between 3pm and 4pm on Friday 26th April. As this is the last Friday of the school holidays, members of the P & C will be at the school to collect items for the TomahROMA.

## Mother's Day

On Friday 11th May the P&C are organising the Mother's Day Stall which raises funds for the Year 6 farewell. Donated items are gift wrapped and sell from \$2 to \$5. In order for your child/children to have the chance to buy a gift we need you to donate. Please leave all donated items in the baskets provided at the school office. It would be appreciated if new items be donated rather than second-hand goods.

A big thank you to those families who have sent in gifts so far. Our basket is filling up, but more would make all mums happy.

We also require volunteers to wrap the gifts and assist on the day. If you are able to help or require further information about this event, please contact Nicole McEvoy ph:4567 1351.

## Moore Fresh Seafood

From **Thursday 11th April** Anthony Moore of Moore Fresh Seafood will be parking his van in the top carpark (near the tennis court) from 3pm to 3.30pm each week. Atlantic Salmon, Ocean Trout and Barramundi fillets, along with Sydney Rock Oysters and fresh, cooked prawns will be available for sale.

## Woolworths Earn and Learn

Woolworths are once again running their 'Earn and Learn' program in 2013. You will be able to start collecting points at the supermarket checkout from 8th April. You will receive one sticker for every \$10 spent which is then placed on a point sheet. The sheets can either be placed inside the in-store collection box or the collection box at school. The promotion ends on 9th June.

## Canteen News

A very big thank you to all the parents who assisted in the school canteen during Term 1. Attached to this newsletter is a roster for Term 2. Please write your name in any date that you are able to assist and return the roster to Mrs Chapman in the school office before Friday 12th April.

Thank you to the following parents who are assisting in the canteen for the remainder of this term;

Thursday 4th April	Michelle Leer
Monday 8th April	Helen Newman
Thursday 11th April	Kelly Haines & Samantha Craigie

The following items have sold out for Term 1 - pizza slabs, cheese and bacon rolls, sausage rolls and chocolate and strawberry milk.

Angie Pirie

## Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their special day in April;

Nathan (8), Tyson (11), Zane (6), Ryley (7) and Jack (10).

## Class News

### Kindergarten/Year 1 News -

We hope that everyone had a great Easter break.

Maths homework this week for Year 1 is 8.1, 9.2, 8.3, along with Spelling and Reading. Kindergarten will be continuing their sound and Reading homework. Keep up the good work everyone.

There will be no homework in the last week of Term 1.

We are looking forward to the Cross Country Carnival and hope to see parents to cheer for their children.

Thank you so much to our Reading helpers this Term. We really appreciate all your help. Looking forward to seeing you again next Term. If you would like to help in the classroom please let us know.

We hope that everyone has a happy and safe holiday.

Mrs J. Shields and Mrs S. Carroll

**Year 2/3 News -**

The students had a fantastic time making sushi last week. It was very exciting that all of the children had a try of the ingredients, many of them for the first time. They cooperated well in groups and enjoyed most of the things they tried.

We have been discussing the equipment the students need in the classroom. We have come to an agreement with the students that they should only have one pencil case. Within this, they need to have a ruler, a rubber, a sharpener, coloured pencils and at least 2 HB pencils. These need to be labelled where possible. As we have limited space, other 'toy-like' items need to be left at home. If the children wish to bring in textas, they can be kept in their bags and brought into the classroom when necessary.

We hope you have had an enjoyable Easter.

Mrs Pearson and Mrs Oram

**Year 4/5 News -**

I hope that all the students and their families had a lovely Easter. Our spelling and reading programs will continue to run until the end of term. A big thank you to all the parents who have assisted us this term. We hope that you will be able to come again next term.

We will be completing spelling homework and maths homework for the next two weeks. The students will complete Unit 6.1 to 6.3 this week and Unit 7.1 to 7.4 next week

The students have been presenting persuasive talks to the class. We have had talks such as, Cats should wear a bell, Students should be 13 to use facebook, dogs are better than cats, to name a few. The students did a very organised and rehearsed speech to the class.

Last week the students had special Easter activities. They made Easter Marshmallow Bark with the help of Nicole McEvoy, created a marbled egg Easter card and made their own Easter bag. The students had lots of fun and their cards and bags look fantastic.

Miss J. Currey

**UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY  
PENRITH OBSERVATORY**

**School Holiday Kids Astronomy Programs - April 2013**

**Family Astronomy Nights - Saturday 13 & 20 (7pm – 9 pm)  
Astronomy Close to Home**

These nights will include a talk on astronomical phenomena that we observe around our planet, a 3D astronomy movie and viewing of the night sky through the University's 0.6 metre and 0.25 telescopes. Our programs run regardless of the weather.

**Kids Fun Day - Wednesday 24 April (10 am – 12 noon)  
Earth Chemistry - looking at all those chemicals in our world  
which came to us from the explosion of a star!** Come along and also watch a 3D astronomy movie, water rockets being launched or safely do some sun spotting through the University's computerised telescopes.

**Cost:** \$15 adult, \$10 child/concession and \$40 family.

**Bookings are essential:** Book online: [www.uws.edu.au/observatory](http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory), What's On

**Enquiries:** Phone (02)4736 0135 or email [r.mccourt@uws.edu.au](mailto:r.mccourt@uws.edu.au)

**Year 6 News -**

Our class have had a very busy term and the students have worked extremely hard. I am sure that they are looking forward to a great holiday break soon.

Students will be completing some assessment tasks this week and next week in preparation for reports coming home in Term 2. I am looking forward to talking to all parents about their children's progress during interviews as a follow up to reports.

During our last week all students will be presenting their talks and powerpoints they have been preparing on Antarctica.

Many students completed artworks for the Hawkesbury Show so we are looking forward to seeing them on display during the show.

Mr A. Hynds

**Ghost Hill  
Spring Water  
Available from  
Matt Hawkins Water  
0418407994**

**MACQUARIE TOWNS ARTS SOCIETY'S  
ART & CRAFT WORKSHOP PROGRAM  
APRIL HOLIDAYS 2013**

Mon. 15th April	10am – 12noon	Paint Pet Rocks
Mon. 15th April	1pm – 3pm	Make A Mask
Tues. 16th April	10am – 12 noon	Draw Dragons
Tues. 16th April	1pm – 3 pm	Treasure Boxes
Wed. 17th April	10am – 12 noon	Pencil Drawing
Wed. 17th April	1pm – 3 pm	Pottery
Thu. 18th April	10am – 12noon	Watercolours
Thu. 18th April	1pm – 3 pm	Draw Bugs & Butterflies
Fri. 19th April	10am – 12noon	Jewellery
Mon. 22nd April	10am – 12noon	Paint a Landscape
Mon. 22nd April	1pm – 3 pm	Papier Mache Sculpture
Tues. 23rd April	10am – 12noon	Pottery
Tues. 23rd April	1pm – 3 pm	Make Pirate Treasure Maps
Wed. 24th April	10am – 12noon	Cartooning
Wed. 24th April	1pm – 3pm	Pottery
Thu. 25th April	NO CLASSES	ANZAC Day holiday
Fri. 26th April	10am – 12noon	Draw Fairies & Mermaids

COST: \$14 per 2hr workshop; all equipment supplied.

VENUE: RICHMOND ART SUPPLIES,  
SHOP 10 MAGNOLIA MALL,  
285 WINDSOR ST, RICHMOND

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: phone Deidre 0412 979731**

**MTAS AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES FOR TERM 2 2013**

**NOW ENROLLING.**

# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



## Helping kids with homework

*For many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK! Here are some ideas that may help.*

Homework causes more headaches for parents than it does for children. Some parents worry because their children don't seem to do enough while others are concerned because they do too much.

But for many parents homework is that time of the day when they routinely harass, hassle and harangue their child to JUST DO YOUR HOMEWORK!

Okay, what to do?

The first step is to know the homework policy of your children's school and understand what is expected of you as a parent. Most schools have parent interviews and information sessions at the start of the year. Next year, make sure you get a good handle on how your children's teacher expects you to assist your child.



It is also useful to find out what your child's teacher will do if your child doesn't complete set tasks. Homework is basically an agreement between a teacher and a child so it should be up to the teacher to ensure the homework is completed. That means the teacher becomes 'the bad guy' and puts some consequence in place if the homework is not completed. Your role as a parent is to support the school if a consequence is put in place, such as completing work in recess or whatever the school deems appropriate.

Here are practical homework tips:

**1. Establish homework time and stick to it each day.** If children tell you they don't have any formal homework then they can read, revise or organise their work. My feedback tells me sticking to a routine even when no formal homework is set is extremely useful and helps avoid battles.

**2. Put the onus back on your children to take responsibility for their work.** Ask children at the start of a homework session to state how much homework they will do. At the end of the session check it to see if it matches with their intentions as well as yours. If you are more concerned about homework than them, your children are not the ones responsible for their homework.

**3. Homework is as much a time management issue as anything else.** Encourage children to work reasonably quickly and efficiently. Have a set time limit, which they should stick to. There is little point slogging away once they become frustrated or tired. Give them an egg-timer or use a clock and get them to work hard for small chunks of time. A little work each night is more productive than packing it into one weekly session.

**4. Help children decide the best time to do homework and then encourage them to stick to those times.** Maybe on some days homework is tackled after dinner for any number of reasons. If doing homework straight after school is important to you then consider feeding children ONLY after homework is completed. Food can be a huge motivator for some children! (As mentioned in point one, a homework routine is important but the timing can vary.)

**5. Establish a good working environment for students.** Make sure they have a quiet, well lit, well ventilated area away from distractions. A table or desk makes a good workspace, although don't be surprised if they spread work all over the kitchen table. Some kids hate to be stuck away in their rooms and prefer to work at the kitchen table and can do so productively. Others are easily distracted and work in short bursts. Work out what is best for YOUR child.

**6. Use the motivating factors of technology.** The Internet and other forms of electronic learning are quick, convenient and give access to huge amounts of information. Nevertheless, children should still know how to access information from more traditional means such as books. Check with your child's teacher as to their specific recommendations and preferences.

**7. Encourage children to get organised.** Help them think ahead to plan their homework around extra-curricular activities. A weekly planner or diary will help older students get organised. Assisting children to become organised is perhaps the best way parents can help at home.

**8. If you are helping with a particular task, keep your explanation simple and practical.** If you become frustrated or upset and the atmosphere becomes tense – stop helping.

**9. Be realistic – don't expect to solve all homework difficulties.** When in doubt send a note to your child's teacher letting him or her know the problem. The teacher will appreciate this good communication.

**10. Communicate any concerns.** If you have concerns about how much or the difficulty of homework your child is set, contact the teacher and arrange a time to discuss your worries. Such discussion is the basis of a true partnership between you and your child's teacher.

The place of homework is routinely questioned by education authorities (now is currently one of those times in Australia) but my gut reaction is that children will always have homework. The name may change and the activities may vary but it will always be homework.

Schools generally try to make sure homework is varied, interesting, engaging and purposeful for children and parents.

Parents also need to be patient with both children (if they struggle) and schools that are trying to find a balance between too little and too much.

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Michael Grose Presentations

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