Recently we held our annual swimming carnival at Mingara Leisure Centre and what a wonderful day it was. Many of our children competed in backstroke, breast stroke and/or freestyle with many of them breaking their personal best. It was also nice to see many children participating in the 25 metre event. The smiles on the faces showed what a great time they were all having. The children in the grandstands were loud and vocal as they engaged in a variety of chants to encourage and support their peers. As always our students demonstrated outstanding behaviour and a sense of pride throughout the day. Congratulations to all our students for their hard work and to Mr Matt Porter for the organisation behind this wonderful day.

It has been brought to my attention that a few parents have raised their concern about the chickens at BVPS. As with any introduction of something new we have looked at the Department of Education's policies and in this case have consulted our parents who have anaphylactic children, thereby ensuring that we do not put any child at risk. We have taken all measures to ensure that all concerns are addressed. The chickens have been introduced as part of our Stephanie Alexander Garden program and linked to our environmental plan. This does not mean that we can sell egg products or allow children to bring egg products to school where they may be in close contact with our anaphylactic children.

It was wonderful to see such a great turnout of parents and grandparents at our P&C meeting last night and I would like to encourage more parents to attend as this is the place where many of the rumours and myths are discussed and the accurate information is given. Just to reinforce some of the current concerns, we are not changing the school uniform nor are we stopping all performances in 2016. As a standard practice we will be asking parents to have an input about our major excursions as the cost is enormous and we would like to ensure that all students can afford to attend as we consider them to be valuable to our educational programs. The P&C are a very active group of parents and community members who work hard for the benefit of our children.

This week we are holding our Parent Teacher Information Evenings (K-6), if the turn out and enthusiasm of our Stage 2 and 3 parents is any indication we will be seeing many familiar and new faces at our Kindergarten and Stage 1 nights. This is a time to meet the teacher, familiarise yourself with your child’s class and hear the routines and practices that will be occurring in their class.

Narelle Armour
Principal

Citizenship Awards
Congratulations to the following students:

Silver Principal: Morgan Sindel 6E

Silver Assistant Principal Award: Luke Mclean 3/4P

Silver Outstanding Achievement: Marshall Young 6E, Evan Hillman 6E

MERIT AWARDS

KB Peter Evans Miriam Jean Ham
KD Brodie Davis Zahra Yeomans
KH Caleb Lewis Owen Clark
KL Hannah Brown Annabelle Wilson
KS Lily Daniels Bradley Richan
KV Makai Damaso Talia

1L Robbie Crawford Kingi-O’Reilly
1W Alisha Sawatske Lilly Stewart
1/2K Felix Townsend Bethany McNicol
2H Stella Juarez Georgia

2M Ethan Hoole Richardson
2RH Ainsley Mills Tiarna Sharp
2S Aman Paul Khai Adams-Kiriona
2L Holly Bryson Dorian McCulloch

2/3A Bella Caddis Isla Molony
3C Ben Jessep Kobi Goldie
3D Billy Waite Bethany Dunlop
3H Corey Hellams Lilee Rogers
3/4P Zoe Tall Rubee Fulmer
4CH Calli Weaver Bastian Sigl
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Watch Out! Kids About

Just a reminder to all parents to take extreme care when dropping off your child/children at school and collecting them when school has finished for the day. Please DO NOT PARK IN THE DESIGNATED "NO PARKING" ZONE in Pindarri Ave 8.00am-9.00am school days. This is a "Kiss and Drop" zone only for parents to stop momentarily to allow their child/children to get out of the car and walk into school. Always park legally and safely around the school and drive carefully, remembering to observe the 40km speed limit for all school zones. Your support and cooperation is so important in keeping our children safe.

Impetigo (School Sores)

There have been a few cases of impetigo (school sores) at the school. We have provided information from the Department of Education relating to the symptoms and treatment of this highly infectious disease.

Symptoms
Small red spots change into blisters that fill up with pus and become crusted; usually on the face, hands or scalp.

School or home?
Keep home from school until antibiotic treatment starts. Sores should be covered with watertight dressings.

How can I help prevent spread?
Parents of children who may have had contact with impetigo should look for signs of infection and seek treatment if symptoms develop. Careful hand washing, especially after changing dressings. Avoid sharing toilet articles, towels, clothing or bed linen. Consider using anti-bacterial soap for bathing for two to three weeks. Avoid scratching or touching the lesions to prevent spread to other parts of the body. Completing the recommended antibiotic course is very important.

Scripture (SRE) Organisation

Scripture began this week and it is anticipated that all students will attend SRE at Berkeley Vale Public School. Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from SRE, but need to inform the school in writing. All children have been allocated to their scripture group according to the information provided on their enrolment form.

Lost Property

We have quite a lot of lost property in the office which have no names or identifying marks on them. It is hard to return these items to their owners without the name. Please check all your child’s belongings that come to school and ensure their name is clearly marked on them so that if they get lost we can return them. Please also check that your child has not taken home clothing belonging to someone else.

Clothes from Sickbay

If your child has been given a change of clothes from our sick bay, could you please return them as our supplies are dwindling.

Dogs on School Premises

It has been noticed that during drop off and pick up times at the school a number of parents have been bringing their dogs with them into school. We have a strict Department Policy in regards to Dogs at school which prohibits dogs on school grounds except where permission has been sought from the Principal. As you can understand some children are frightened of dogs and some also suffer allergies so please leave your dogs at home.

Berkeley Vale Public School

Mingara Dinner, Dance & Show

Friday 30 October, 2015!

Any person with a connection to Berkeley Vale Public School and interested in celebrating our school’s 100 Year celebration at Mingara, be sure to save the date and spread the word! The night will include a two course meal, entertainment from school staff, a live band and dance opportunities. Cost and time to be confirmed.

Please contact our school office for further information or to leave contact details.

Phone: 4388 1796
Email: berkeleyva-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/bvps100
BVPS Cake Stall

The School held a fundraising cake stall on Friday 13 February. Thank you to all who created a masterpiece or bought something delicious. Much fun and cake was had by all involved - teachers, parents and especially the children. There was an overwhelming show of support from the community. The stall was to open at recess but due to the amount of donations the stall had to continue its opening hours to lunch and even after school. A big thank you to all those who bought the scrumptious goods. Due to your generous donations the stall was able to raise $700.10 for School Programs.

Zach Little
and the Cup Cake Committee

Ports Sport Shorts

2015 Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who participated in this year’s swimming carnival. There were many outstanding swimmers who did their personal best or who attempted their first swim of the 50m pool. It was a fantastic event and the primary boys and girls had a great day! Successful Swimmers who qualify for the Zone Carnival will participate at Mingara on Tuesday 3 March. Notes will be issued closer to the date.

OzTag State Cup

Sienna and Tarni Ricketts along with Sophie Burns played in the Oztag State Cup in Coffs Harbour last weekend. All played in the under 9 division. The girls played 7 games over 3 days winning the final 3 - 2 over Nepean. Kiana Ricketts played in the under 10s. They lost the semi final to Baulkham Hills who won the division. Congratulations girls, well done!

Sophie Burns & Sienna & Tarni Ricketts with their Gold Medals

Recounts by Competitors

I am happy that I made the team and my team was great. I am also happy we got into the semi-finals. I had a great weekend playing Oztag and I had a lot of fun in Coffs Harbour

Kiana Ricketts 5A

On the weekend I played OzTag and won a big gold medal that said OzTag on it!

Tarni Ricketts 3C

On the weekend I went to OzTag for the Central Coast Reps. My team made it to the finals. We played the hardest team in the competition and won 3-2. Everyone was really happy and the whole team got a gold medal.

Sophie Burns 2/3A

On the weekend I played OzTag with my twin sister Tarni. My other sister Kiana was competing as well in an older division and made it to the semi-finals. Tarni and I competed in the Under 9’s and we had the whole Central Coast cheering for us because we won the final! We received a medal and got a photo taken of our team. On the drive home, I felt so proud of myself!

Sienna Ricketts 3H
Representative Tryouts

Goodluck to all students who are trying out for the Tuggerah Lakes Representative Teams.

BVPS Cricket Team

Congratulations to our boys cricket team who won Round 1 against Jilliby Public School 111-46! Many thanks to Mr Walsh for coaching and all the parents for their support. Man of the Match was Luke Smith.

Matt Porter
Sports Coordinator

P&C NEWS

Thanks to everyone who attended last night’s meeting, what a wonderful turn out.
Upcoming events:

- **Easter Raffle tickets** will be sent out in Week 8. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 2 April.
- **P&C BBQ** The state election is Saturday 28 March and P&C will be running a BBQ. We will be looking for volunteers to come along and help out. A roster will be set up shortly.
- **Family portraits** will be held on Sunday 29 March. More details to come.

The Events Committee will be meeting on Tuesday 3 March at 6pm in the staffroom. All welcome to attend.
The next P&C meeting will be Tuesday 17 March at 7pm in the staffroom. All welcome!

CANTEEN NEWS

As a combined school and P&C initiative we will be surveying students, parents and staff in all areas of the canteen. Please keep a lookout for this survey to be sent out shortly.

Recipe tip: The simplest way to make

**Iceblocks:**

Place any combination of finely diced fruit into moulds, top with a fruit juice of your choice and then freeze until solid.

OOSH NEWS

Last week at Oosh it was all about “Chickens”. With our school chickens over in Playground 6 happily laying an average of 3 eggs per day, we thought it would be fun to learn other great things about chickens as the children can be a part of the caring of the chickens in the mornings at Oosh and in the afternoons with of course the best part, searching and collecting the eggs!

This week we are celebrating “Chinese New Year”, year of the sheep. The children have been exploring the Chinese Zodiac and discovering what animal symbol they are and the meanings of that sign. We have been creating beautiful fans, awesome dragons and even having a go at some Chinese writing.

With week 5 just around the corner, we are very excited to report how settled our Kindergarten children are at Oosh. With an average of 5 children in the mornings and 15 in the afternoons, they have been able to integrate beautifully and really enjoy their time here at Oosh. We welcome any new families that may be thinking of experiencing an afternoon or morning at Oosh. Please come and have a chat to Liz or Leanne in the cottage for more information. And don’t forget to look out for our Vacation Care Program from week 5.