3 December 2014

**ALERT**
Unfortunately, this Friday’s Yr 4-7 Swimming Carnival is cancelled.

**Blitz End of Term Reward Day: Tuesday**
This term, the house winner of the Blitz Disco is WILSON. All Rewards discos will be held on Tuesday 9 December.

**SENIOR AWARDS EVENING**
Invited Parents, Students and Staff are reminded that the Senior Awards Evening will be held in the Birkdale State School Hall, commencing at 6.30 pm Monday, 8 December 2014.

Adancedlife Photography will be available to take photos of students, friends and family from 4.15 pm until 6.15 pm. Photos can be viewed 7 - 10 days after the event on their website. [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au)

Dress for students is smart casual.
Refer: Mrs Angus

**Principal’s Message**
I would like to officially congratulate and announce our 2015 school leaders. I know that each one of these students will wear the BSS uniform proudly, carry out their responsibilities diligently and be a credit to the school as well as to themselves and their family.

**School Captains:**
Riana, Anisha, Reuben, Poppy, Jakemo, Erin

**House Captains:**
Woodgate: Emma, Shanae, Leila, Makayla
Wilson: Charlie, Dominic, Lachlan, Nikisha
McNeilly: Luke, Jordan, Jorden, James

As always, this is an intense few weeks as we complete what has been a very productive year of teaching and learning at Birkdale S.S. Enrolments are being taken, classes are being formed, furniture is being shifted in preparation for next year and end of year celebrations are taking place. It is very busy and exciting, however we encourage students to follow the school rules and be sun safe every day, following the Birkdale motto: “Always Our Best”.

In addition, we are working towards being ready for effective teaching and learning from day one of next year. One of the strengths of our school is the quality of our teaching teams in each year level. Next year we will see this become even stronger as our year level teams will collaboratively plan under the guidance of our Head of Curriculum, Mrs Jo Small on specified planning days each term. Collaboration is another key component in the quality of learning that takes place at Birkdale, as it enables teachers to draw on the experience and aptitudes of each other as they plan together towards quality teaching and learning practices for their students.
Inevitably, at this time of year teacher transfers also take place. This year, sadly, we must farewell Liz Kelly who has been transferred to Chatswood Hills S.S. Liz has been at Birkdale for many years. We also say farewell to Georgia Gibbons who is leaving the DETE school system after being at Birkdale from the beginning of her teaching career and we wish Georgia all the very best in her future direction. I know that both Liz and Georgia will be missed by the school community.

At the same time we welcome Mrs Deirdre Mansfield, Mrs Ondrea Millard and Ms Alyson Smith to the Birkdale State School teaching team. All these ladies are experienced teachers, who have been transferred to Birkdale S.S. Deirdre comes from Kruger S.S. and Alyson from Dunwich S.S. Ondrea has been officially transferred to BSS for 2015, even though she has been teaching in a number of capacities this year with us at Birkdale State School.

P+C Support
I would like to thank our wonderful P+C on behalf of our school community for all their hard work once again this year in their fundraising efforts. All funds go directly back into school projects and resources for our students. Last year the P+C committed to school ICT resources and we have seen the results of this with more classrooms having Interactive Whiteboards installed plus additional computers and laptops. As you are aware, these are costly items, so I sincerely thank our P+C members for their dedication in organising a variety of events that raise these much needed funds. These funds go towards the continued improvement of our students’ access to current computer technologies, thus enabling our children to be 21st century learners.

Jayne Barnett  Acting Principal

Deputy’s Desk
As this is my second last newsletter for the Birkdale community I wanted to take the opportunity to thank the community and especially the students for my time at Birkdale as your Deputy Principal. It has been a privilege to be part of the school’s leadership team and work alongside Ms Barnett. Thank you to all the class teachers, support staff and admin team for their collegiality and genuine care. It’s often hard to come into a school in an ‘acting’ position and feel like you instantly belong but that’s what happened at Birkdale and I thank you for that.

My lasting memories of Birkdale will be the happy faces of our students saying a cheery hello to me as I walk around the grounds and the classrooms.

Thank you Birkdale, you are a fabulous school and I will miss you.

Social Skill for Week 9
This week the students will be focus on developing an ‘Appreciative Class’. This involves;
- Student showing appreciation
- Students recognising the good efforts of others
- Students supporting each other
- Students positively interacting with others
- Student giving and receiving positive feedback

Jane Leishman - Acting Deputy Principal

LOST PROPERTY
Can’t find your lunch box, drink bottles or jumpers?! Pop down to the lost property box, near the library, anytime. Hurry as the last days are upon us! Please remember to label all clothing with FIRST and LAST names.

Students leaving end of 2014 – Yrs Prep to 5
Parents/Carers, if your child is leaving Birkdale State School this year, would you please complete the form below and return it to the office. Alternatively, please call or email the office with the following information:

Student Name: _____________________________
Class: _______ Last day attending: _____________
2015 School: ______________________________
State: ________ Reason: ______________________
___________________________________________

STRUDDYS CAPALABA
Studdys is offering a lay-by system for purchasing your school uniforms for pick up in January 2015. A 20% Deposit is required. Uniform stocks can run low in January. Struddies are also offering 20% OFF RRP on back to school shoes.

STUDENT COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION
A HUGE THANK YOU to all who entered into our competition. There were some beautiful cards and it was such a hard job to pick winners. However, the Councillors did just that and prizes have been awarded to the very best from each category.

The Student Council wishes you a very Merry Christmas and all best wishes for the New Year. Thank you for your support over the past twelve months.

Debra Zondagh (Teacher)

HOT DATES

5 December  Yrs 4-7 Swimming Carnival
5 December  Pre-Prep BBQ
8 December  Senior Awards Ceremony
9 December  Blitz Disco/ Rewards Day
10 December  Academic & Citizenship Awards
10 December  P-5 ‘Meet & Greet’ 2015 teachers
10 December  P+C Carols evening
10 December  Report Cards sent home
11 December  Prep Christmas Concert for parents
11 December  Special Assembly/ Ringing the Bells
Music Notes...

Guitar and Ukulele lessons 2015
Next year, our after school lessons for Guitar and Ukulele will continue. If you are interested in your child joining one of these groups for 2015, please read the following information and contact the relevant teacher:

Guitar Beginner Lessons (Year 3 – 6 only)
• held in the Music room after school
• group lessons $11/half hour
• contact John Prefontaine on 3245 2270
• email: john@jpguitarstudio.com
• private tuition at the studios also available for more advanced students

Ukulele Lessons (Year 1 – 6)
• held in the Music room after school
• group lessons $11/half hour
• contact Julie Minto on 0401 617 915
• email: info@mamajuju.com.au

Birkdale State School Community Christmas Carols

Date: Wednesday 10 December
Venue: Birkdale State School Hall
Time: 6 pm – 7 pm
Sausage Sizzle: from 5.30 pm

Please join us for a fun-filled night with family and friends at this year’s Community Carols. Songs will be led by the very entertaining Performance Group, with special guest appearances from Steve Sparrow and son Craig. The evening will be a lovely, family friendly event where all school and community members can come together to celebrate and share the Christmas spirit. Song booklets will be handed out on entry so everyone can sing along.

Please bring a rug/blanket and some cushions so you can find a comfy spot to sit on the floor. Chairs will be available at the sides and back of the hall, but not through the middle floor area.

P&C will be running a sausage sizzle and selling cold drinks.
Glow products will be available to purchase. *(No open flames will be permitted due to Workplace Health and Safety Regulations.)*

ALL WELCOME – SEE YOU THERE!

School Fundraising: Spencil
15% of every sale goes back to the school for fundraising.

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Awards:
Our annual Sports Awards ceremony was held in the hall on Monday. Presentations were made to selected students involved in the interschool sports competition to recognise their achievements. Trophies and medallions were presented to students to recognise not only a high level of skill, but also sportsmanship and commitment to this valuable program. The two major award recipients were Lynette winning the Anne Lee Memorial Award for the Senior Netballer of the Year and Reece receiving the Darryl Bell Sportsperson of the Year Trophy. A special mention is given to our ‘Girls in Sport’ participants who opened the ceremony with their dance routine to ‘Break Free’. It certainly set the mood for a memorable morning. It was another successful year with our school, winning nine of the twelve interschool sport premierships and five of the eight Osprey Cup competitions. This success can be attributed to the commitment of our students, the dedication of our teaching staff and the support of the administration and Birkdale community.

Swimming Carnival:
The carnival has been cancelled.

Interschool Sport:
The final round of interschool sport was held last Friday with Birkdale winning three of the four premierships on offer. Our Senior girls’ softball and both Junior boys and girls tee ball teams all finished on top of their respective sports tables. Mrs Baxter and Mrs Zondagh were impressed with the skills and sportsmanship on display throughout this competition. Our cricketers, under the guidance of Mr Schroder and Mr Youitt, were competitive in their divisions and as there were only two games played no premierships were awarded. Well done, Birkdale!

Thank You:
As this is my final article for the year. I would like to thank the parents and teachers for their support throughout the year. Birkdale continues to set the benchmark in sport within our district and this is only possible due the support from the students, teachers, parents and administration team at our school. I would also like to thank the wonderful group of parents who have helped with swimming throughout the year. A special mention is given to Graham and Alison who have been at the pool nearly every day supporting our program. I would also like to thank Leanne, Christine and John for their invaluable assistance throughout the year. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated people who are only too willing to support the students in the PE and sports programs.

Refer: Alan Menzies

ON THE RACK
Firebirds free Netball Clinic: 11-15y.o.
More info on participation@netballq.org.au

ALL MUSIC UNIFORMS, FOLDERS AND MUSIC ARE NOW OVERDUE. PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.