



# NEWSLETTER



120 Barnier Drive  
Quakers Hill, 2763

To subscribe email: barniernewsletter@gmail.com

Email: barnier-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 9837 1600

Fax: 9837 1858

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## Principal's Message



Welcome to our Term 1, Week 8 newsletter everyone!

What a fortnight it has been!

### COVID-19

As you are aware, there has been advice provided to schools regarding their operation as the NSW and Australian governments manage COVID-19. In line with this advice, the following school events at Barnier have been cancelled:

- **All PSSA games and coaching sessions for Term 1**
- **Term 1 Stage Assemblies**
- **Week 10 Whole School Assembly**
- **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** Three Way Conferences
- **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** – Blacktown Legends League Gaga Day
- **All Sydney West Competitions: girls' football, AFL, rugby League, softball, boys' football, soccer.**

- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April** – Easter Hat Parade and P&C Discos. **Please note that students will still experience the fun of making their hat in class and will be able to bring it home.**

It is hoped that some of these events can be held at a later date. Decisions will be reassessed if the official advice changes.

### Important Information

**Students must stay home if they are sick. This is very important.**

The health and safety of our students and staff is paramount. If your child is unwell with respiratory illness or any other type of illness, **they must remain at home until symptoms resolve and, where appropriate, seek advice from a medical practitioner (and call ahead first).**

**If students are unwell at school they are immediately moved away from other students and sent home.**

We have plentiful supplies of soap and paper towels in toilets and in classrooms. If students would like to bring their own hand sanitiser to use at school as an added precaution, please ensure that it is clearly labelled with their name and class. We have modified playground lining up procedures, recess/lunch eating procedures as well as school band activities. All classrooms and toilets are thoroughly cleaned every day. Students and staff are hand washing frequently throughout the school day and practising good hygiene within the school. We are implementing social distancing strategies across the school. School banking, scripture and library have been temporarily suspended.

Barnier will continue to precisely follow all departmental

advice and instructions. This may change as the term progresses. Please check Skoolbag regularly for notifications and updates. If parents or carers have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office. I thank all parents, staff and students for their support and understanding.

### Updated International Travel Restrictions

On 15<sup>th</sup> March, the Government put in place new measures for people arriving in Australia.

Individuals must self-isolate for a period of 14 days on arrival to Australia, including returning Australian citizens and residents. You are also required to self-isolate if you have been diagnosed with the COVID-19 or if you have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection.

**Any student returning from overseas must not attend school for 14 days.**

### School Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at school is absolutely essential for every student's academic progress and success. Students must attend school every day of each school term ***unless they are sick, injured or (possibly) infectious***. It is not acceptable for any student to have time away from school for any other reason. In order to make the very most of every educational opportunity, students must be here at school to access differentiated and sequential, syllabus-based programs across all curriculum areas, the expertise of our teaching staff and the educational resources here at school. School attendance is also essential for each student's social, emotional and behavioural development.

In line with the Department of Education School Attendance Policy, family holidays and travel during school terms are no longer considered under 'Exemption from School Procedures'. Travel outside a school vacation period is counted as an absence from school.

***Reasons for travel during school terms will not be approved unless they are in the best interests of the student's educational and social and participation needs.***

Parents and carers must submit an Application for Extended Leave – Travel form and attach copies of all travel documentation such as travel itinerary and e-tickets. The application will be considered for approval in line with the DoE Attendance Policy. When travel period exceeds one school term access to Distance Education must be considered.

### Skoolbag

The Skoolbag APP is the best and easiest way to stay up to date with school events, last minute notices, newsletters and all school communications. The Skoolbag APP is free for parents. Simply search for the APP in the APPLE APP or Google Play Store, sign up

in seconds using your email address and then select your school.

**If your child is or has been absent from school you must notify the school as soon as possible to explain the reason why. The easiest way to do this is via the Skoolbag APP. Simply select eforms then Absentee Form, enter the details, sign using your finger and submit.**

### Positive Behaviour for Learning

Barnier is a PBL school. Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an educational process that brings together the whole-school community to contribute to developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture. The PBL framework assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for children and young people.

PBL is a process, not a program.

When PBL is implemented well, teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction.

Students and staff benefit from:

- reduced problem behaviour
- increased time focused on instruction
- improved social-emotional wellbeing
- positive and respectful relationships among students and staff
- better support for teachers to teach, model and respond effectively to student needs
- a predictable learning environment where staff and students know what is expected to deliver effective practices that can be sustained over time.

PBL can be implemented in any school setting to support students from pre-school through to Year 12.

The PBL framework helps schools identify and successfully implement evidenced-based whole-school practices that enhance learning outcomes for children and young people.

The PBL framework can be used to strengthen the existing systems, structures and processes within the school which underpin the school's ongoing improvement and effectiveness. For example, the PBL framework encourages the use of school-wide data to identify patterns of problem behaviour, monitor student progress, reflect on teaching effectiveness and inform decisions that strengthen the learning.

Implementation of PBL requires the commitment of the whole school community and the support of the principal and executive teachers to lead the process within the school. Specific attention to what needs to be done, how it is done and why it is being done across the school is critical to create a positive, safe and supportive learning environments.

The key implementation aspects include:

- developing and using a common vision, language and experience to support PBL implementation
- clear expectations of students and staff
- collaborating with all staff to plan and implement PBL
- having at least 80% of staff willing to support PBL
- developing a team approach with regular meetings
- creating, reviewing and revising a plan of action
- Collecting and using of data for decision-making.

***We have implemented a number of strategies at Barnier that are data-informed and have been highly successful, examples of this are the explicit teaching of our expectations (respect, responsibility and resilience) across all school settings, free and frequent acknowledgement and reward of positive behaviour choices and changes to eating and playing times. Students now have supervised eating times at recess and lunch and 2X30 minute play periods instead of 3X20 minute play periods. This change has resulted in students properly and completely eating their recess and lunch before going off to play and a significant reduction in negative playground incidents which has been just wonderful to see.***

### **Harmony Day**

Special and heartfelt thanks to Mrs Andrews, Mrs Juleff and Mrs Putica for organising a spectacular Harmony Day on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Despite having to postpone the assembly, community picnic and bilingual reading activities, we still ensured that all students participated in some very special, fun and enjoyable activities aimed at promoting the values and importance of Harmony Day.

### **Parent Complaints and Concerns**

Occasionally parents or members of our school community may be concerned about an incident or issue or may have a complaint they would like addressed. Sometimes things do not go the way you expect. Sometimes the decisions made or the actions taken need to be explained better. At other times, we need to look more closely at what we did or how we are doing our work.

We would greatly appreciate all parents who have a complaint or concern to contact the school in a respectful and calm manner. I strongly encourage all parents to follow these procedures rather than venting on social media.

The school will always:

- encourage the resolution of problems wherever possible and always in a professional, respectful, supportive and calm manner
- ensure that concerns are addressed quickly, fully and fairly
- maintain good working relationships between all people involved with the school
- provide effective responses and appropriate redress
- be confidential and unbiased

It is very important for all adults to lead by example, for our children, with the way that they raise concerns, and also to model a respectful, positive and problem solving approach in these situations.

### **National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Today is the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. This has been acknowledged in classrooms across the school.

Bullying prevention is everyone's responsibility.

Every student, every staff member, every parent, carer and visitor on our school grounds has the right to be safe and to be treated respectfully and courteously. Bullying is not tolerated at Barnier Public School. I strongly encourage anyone who is bullied or who witnesses bullying on school grounds to report incidents immediately to a member of staff.

The following link provides great information about this issue and how to deal with it for parents and students:

<https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

*Warmest regards,*

*Mandy Hollis*

*Principal*

# Event Reminders

## Week 9

## Week 10

### *30th March*

- Hire a helper auction day

### *31st March*

- Hire a helper helping day -  
Students will be making Easter  
Hats in class

### *1st April*

- **Online payment cut-off** for  
Sports in School Yrs 3-6 is **6pm**
- **Online payment cut-off** for Year  
5 & 6 Interrelate is **6pm**
- **Online payment cut-off** for Year  
5-6 Camp deposit is **6pm**

### *3rd April*

- **Last day for payment at the office**  
Sports in School Yrs 3-6
- **Last day for payment at the office**  
Year 5 & 6 Interrelate
- **Last day for payment at the office**  
Year 5-6 Camp deposit



## Barnier P&C



### ***Join us and get excited to be part of your P&C***

**Who are we?** Barnier P&C is a member of the P&C - Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales. Our main aims are to; promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, citizens, pupils and teaching staff into close co-operation; assist in providing equipment required by the school; report to the Minister the material requirements of the school; assist the teaching staff in establishment of school policy and management in all facets of school activity.

**What do we do?** We collaborate with our school and play an active role adding value to our children's schooling experience. We are an inclusive community group here at Barnier PS and welcome new members to join our P&C. Please consider joining, it sets a wonderful example of community spirit for your children and highlights the importance of good education.

**How could you be involved?** As a member of Barnier's P&C, we have the opportunity to share our opinion on how we can make improvements to all our children's' education, such as buying resources and updating play equipment. Throughout the year we vote on which events we should run to raise funds for our school. A secondary outcome is also an opportunity to meet other parents outside our children's class and make new friends. So come and join our community group. We are always looking for volunteers to help us be creative and create valuable experiences for our children.

**Are you time poor and don't know how you can help?** It can be as big or as small involvement as you like- we know everyone is busy! We all know more hands make light work!

Things that make a big difference include getting involved in contacting new books for our library (any 80's kid loves this!), volunteering for marking names off at an event, being on the little canteen, serving sausages to our community, being part of a new gardening group. In the near future we will start up a small group to source cool and fresh new ideas/ sponsors.

**When?** At Barnier our P & C committee meets at 7.30 pm on Mondays of week 3 and 7 each term in the library. But the volunteering jobs may be during school time or evenings whatever is appropriate.

**Is there a cost?** To register to become a member, you will need to pay \$1 membership. Membership lasts from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. You can pay through the Flexischools app, pay your \$1 at a P&C meeting or see one of the hard working exec's out in the playground.



<https://www.facebook.com/barnierpandc/>

email us : [barnierpublicschool-pres@pandcaffiliate.org.au](mailto:barnierpublicschool-pres@pandcaffiliate.org.au)



Thank you for your continued support and keep safe whilst we ride the COVID-19 wave. The school is doing a great job in keeping us up to date through the Skoolbag App, notes and Facebook posts.