



120 Barnier Drive

Quakers Hill, 2763

Phone: 9837 1600

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

To subscribe, email: barniernewsletter@gmail.com

newsletter

23rd February, 2024



I hope the first 4 weeks of Term 1 have been happy and productive for everyone!

Rescheduled Term 4 Staff Development Days

The last day of the year for students this year is Wednesday 18th December.

Our school staff has voted to reschedule the Term 4 Staff Development Days this year.

This means that students and staff will finish the school year together on Wednesday 18th December and the school and school office will not be operational on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th December.

Our Swimming Carnival

Special thanks to Mr Stuart and all staff and parents who assisted with the organisation and running of our Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 21st February. Congratulations to all students who competed, giving their absolute best and displaying outstanding sportsmanship. We wish our zone team the very best of luck.



Learning Support/EAL/D (English as a Second language) at Barnier Public School – Information for Parents

We have exemplary learning and support programs and EAL/D at Barnier Public School. Our learning and support staff include Mrs Putica, Ms Tan, Mrs Rudek, Ms Johal, Mrs Schultz, Ms Kaur, Mrs Reedy and Mrs Van Cuylenberg.

In addition to this, our school counsellors, Ms Joyner and Ms Sarkaria, provide assistance and guidance to the Learning Support Team and we have ready access to Department of Education Learning and Engagement Officers who have tremendous expertise, knowledge and skill in the area of learning support.

The Learning Support Team, led by Mrs Housbey (our Deputy Principal) and supported by our School Counsellor Mrs Joyner, meets weekly to ensure that students requiring specialised support are placed onto suitable programs and monitored or receiving appropriate adjustments and modifications to existing educational programs or are participating in effective interventions enabling them to experience greater success at school. School funds are used to support students through: specialised programs, classroom and library resources, teacher aide support, differentiation of programs and individualised & group support sessions. Funds are also used to train staff to effectively meet the needs of students requiring specialised support. Students experiencing difficulties with learning as well as high potential and gifted students are supported through our learning support programs and initiatives.

Bullying

Students attend school to participate in quality education that will help them to become self-directed, lifelong learners who can create a positive future for themselves and the wider community.

Any inappropriate behaviour that gets in the way of teaching and learning at Barnier Public School and interferes with the wellbeing of students **will not be accepted.**

Students, teachers, parents, caregivers and members of the wider school community have a shared responsibility to create a safe and happy environment, free from all forms of bullying.

Every student has the right to come to school every day and feel happy and safe.

We have Zero Tolerance of Bullying at Barnier Public School



Bullying can be verbal, physical or psychological.

Students are strongly encouraged to report any incidents of bullying to a member of staff immediately. Such reports will be taken very seriously. Staff will take a strong, proactive, positive and problem solving approach to these incidents.

Parents can make a difference

Please report any incidents of bullying immediately to a member of staff so that bullying can be dealt with in a timely and effective manner.

All school policies are regularly and routinely reviewed in schools.

Barnier Public School has a detailed and comprehensive Anti-Bullying Policy. Barnier is also a PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) & PAX school. These initiatives promote caring for others, positivity and wellbeing as well as high expectations for behaviour and conduct.

Reporting bullying does help to stop it occurring and enables us to deal effectively with such incidents when they occur.

A recent study into this issue in schools found that the most powerful action someone witnessing bullying in the school setting can do is simply go and stand next to the person being bullied and show their support. This gesture is an extremely powerful one and sends a strong message to everyone that bullying is not acceptable or tolerated and that people being bullied will be protected and cared for.

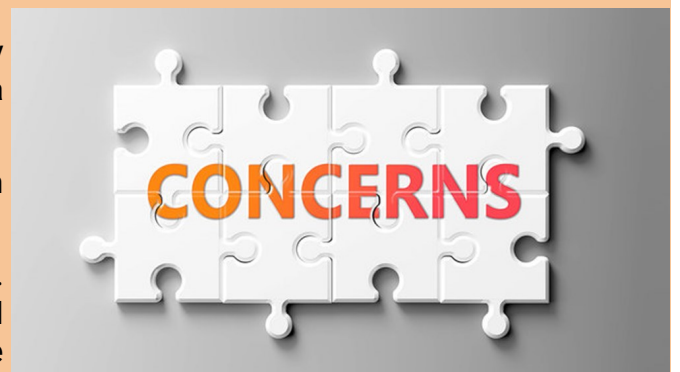
Please speak to your child about this. We thank all members of the Barnier Public School community for your support and cooperation ensuring that Barnier Public School is a safe and happy school for everyone!

Complaints, Concerns and Issues

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.

A complaint can simply be an expression of dissatisfaction or it can be a problem that you want fixed.

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.



The Department of Education has a policy to assist in the dealing of complaints. The policy aims to:

- encourage the resolution of problems by informal means wherever possible
- ensure that concerns are dealt with quickly, fully and fairly
- maintain good working relationships between all people involved with the school
- provide effective responses and appropriate redress
- be confidential
- be unbiased

How to make a complaint

- Discuss your concerns with a member of our staff or make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Principal
- You may bring a friend or relative to support you.
- If a complaint cannot be resolved in an informal way, you may be asked to put your complaint in writing.
- It is important that your written complaint includes specific details of the situation/issue and an indication of what you would like to happen as a result of your complaint.
- We can assist you to put your complaint in writing, if you require it.

What can you expect?

- Most complaints can be resolved quickly and informally to everybody's satisfaction simply by talking to the person concerned or the Principal.
- Some complaints are covered under another policy or by special legislation e.g. Workplace, Health and Safety or anti-discrimination policies. You will be advised if this is the case with your complaint. You will also be told how and by whom your concerns will be addressed.
- Occasionally more serious or complex complaints require investigation. These can take a longer time to resolve. If this happens, you should be informed of the progress and outcome of your complaint by phone or in writing at regular intervals until the matter is resolved.
- If you have not heard from the person handling the complaint within a reasonable time, call to ask them what is happening.

What are the possible outcomes?

1. Your complaint is upheld (in part or in full) and, where appropriate, one or more of the following actions may be offered to you:

- action to remedy or amend the situation
- an apology
- an explanation
- an admission that the situation could have been handled differently or better
- an assurance that the event complained of will not recur
- an explanation of the steps that have been taken to ensure that it will not happen again
- an undertaking to review our policies in light of the complaint.

2. Your complaint is not upheld. The reasons for this should be clearly given.

If you are not happy with the outcome, you may request a review of your complaint.

I encourage all parents or members of our school community who have a concern or an issue to approach a member of staff or myself so that matters can be resolved as quickly and effectively as possible.



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Travel and Family Holidays During School Terms

School attendance is compulsory for every student on every school day, except when explained by illness or unforeseen events. Many families choose to travel for recreation or family visits on school days for various reasons. The Department of Education determines this is counted as an absence even if there is an explanation.

If you are planning to travel, the expectation is that travel is arranged during school holidays so that students do not miss school. In cases where travel during term time is unavoidable, ensure you notify the school and complete the required documents.

Please find the departments attendance policy here: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/school-community/attendance-matters-resources-for-schools/compulsory-school-attendance#Attendance0>

Warmest regards,

Mandy Hollis

Principal

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

6 days or less
absence per year
97% or above
VERY GOOD
THIS IS YOUR
TARGET

Between
7 and 19 days
absence per year
90% - 96%
BELOW
EXPECTATIONS

More
than 19 days
absence per year
Under 90%
POOR
ATTENDANCE



Compulsory school attendance

| Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight
 = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

1 day per week
 = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed

More information

Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.



NAPLAN

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy Information for parents and carers

- All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Australia do NAPLAN tests in March each year.
- NAPLAN tests students' skills in reading, writing and maths.
- The test questions are presented in Standard Australian English dialect.
- Students read some of the questions and listen to others with headphones.
- The tests will get easier or harder, depending on how students are going in the test.
- Students do four different tests. The names of the four tests are:



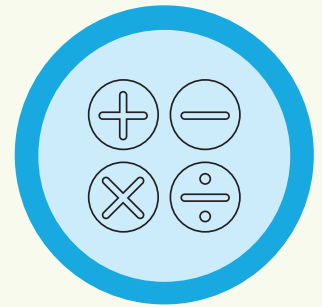
Writing



Reading



Conventions of language
(spelling, grammar and punctuation)



Numeracy

- Students in Year 3 will do the Writing test using pencil and paper. Year 3 students will answer the other test questions on the computer.
- Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 will answer all their test questions on computers.
- Teachers will help students get ready for NAPLAN tests.
- Schools will get their students' results. The school will then give parents/carers a report showing their own child's results.
- Parents/carers can talk to the teacher about these results.
- NAPLAN shows how students are going all over Australia. People who work in the Australian Government, state and territory education authorities and schools use NAPLAN results. The results let them see which schools are doing well and which schools might need help.

Talk to your teacher if you have any questions about your child doing the tests.
For more information on NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

TERM 1 2024

Kindergarten have had a wonderful start to their first year of school. They have quickly settled into new routines and have been busy learning, playing and making new friends.

The students have enjoyed discovering different areas of the playground, and are particularly enjoying playing in the sandpits and playground equipment. A highlight in each classroom so far has been starting our phonics program and meeting Milo Monkey. Each week Kindergarten will learn a new sound and will learn how to blend these sounds together to read words. It's truly an exciting thing to be part of for teachers and students.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with fun, learning and play!



Barnier Public School

These are the awards that you can receive at Barnier

When we earn 5 Tokens we are given a **Bronze Award**

*Bronze Awards will be handed out
by the classroom teacher, in the classroom when
5 tokens
have been achieved.*

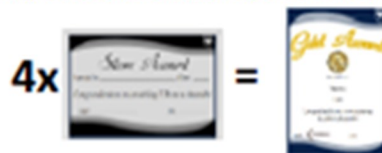
When we earn 5 **Bronze Awards** we receive a **Silver Award**

*Silver Awards will be handed out at a Stage Assembly when
5 Bronze Awards
have been achieved and returned to the classroom teacher.*



When we earn 4 **Silver Awards** we receive a **Gold Award**

*Gold Awards will be handed out at a
Whole School Assembly by the Principal when
4 Silver Awards
have been achieved and returned to the classroom teacher.*



When we earn 3 **Gold Awards** we receive a **Platinum Award**

*Platinum Awards will be handed out at a
Whole School Assembly when
3 Gold Awards
have been achieved and returned to the classroom teacher.
Parents and/or Guardians will be invited to attend.*



Event Reminders

Term 1
Weeks 5 & 6

Week 5

Monday 26th February ~ Whole School Assembly at 1:30pm

Tuesday 27th February ~ Scriptures Starts Today

Wednesday 28th February ~ Year 6 Fundraiser— Olympics Dress Up Day

Thursday 29th February ~ Stage 1 Assembly (years 1 & 2)—Hosted by 2B

Friday 1st March ~ Stage 2 Assembly (years 2 & 3)

Week 6

Monday 4th March ~ National Young Leaders Day Excursion

Wednesday 6th March ~ Longneck Lagoon SRC Leadership Excursion

Friday 8th March ~ Stage 3 Assembly (years 5 & 6)

Stay Connected with Barnier Public School

- Office hours are from 8:15am to 3:00pm
- School Email: barnier-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au & Phone: 9837 1600
- School Bytes (permission notes and payments)
- Sentral Parent Portal (all other school business)
- Seesaw (class communication Years 1 - 2)
- Google Classroom (class communication Years 3 - 6)
- Facebook (whole school communication)



Check out our
school website

<https://barnier-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>



Seesaw



School
Bytes

