From the Principal

Welcome to another awesome week at Broken Hill Public School.

Happy 130th Birthday Central
We are seeking any Broken Hill Public/Central memorabilia and photos for our 130th celebrations. If you, or any one you know, have any items you would like to share please bring them to the admin office. Photos and documents will be scanned for our display. All memorabilia needs to be clearly marked with your name and phone number so they can be safely returned to you after the celebrations. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to talk to the ladies in the admin office.

Easter Hat Parade
Our annual Easter Hat Parade will be held on Thursday, 24th April, 2016 commencing at 11.30am. We would again like to ask any past and present school community members to come along with an Easter Hat and join in The Parents & Community Parade. This will be followed by a BBQ thanks to the P&C Association. It would be great to see as many as possible come and enjoy the celebrations.

The Easter Hat Parade Day is a mufti day. So let’s join in the fun and start decorating our hats.

Meet, Greet and Eat
A very big thank you to the P&C for providing a very well received breakfast last Friday morning. A perfect start to the day! Also thank you to parents, caregivers and staff who attended the meet and greet. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Barrier PSSA Trials
Congratulations to those who were selected in various Barrier teams to represent at State Carnivals this year. We are all proud of you efforts.
Micas
A reminder that Micas are a part of our yearly reward system, which commences in February and finishes in December each year. Award charts are displayed in classrooms for students to keep track of their efforts. Micas are recorded for students who meet the school’s expectations in the classroom and in the playground. School rules, expectations and consequences are discussed regularly in class and as a whole school at assemblies. Students must be present at school to receive a Mica. Merit Awards are presented by the class teacher when a student has earned 20 Micas. Bronze Awards are presented to students at a special assembly and families are invited to attend. To receive a Bronze Award, students will have to have received 40 Micas as a result of attending school and following expectations and rules. We look forward to presenting these and many other awards to our worthy students throughout the year.

School Money Envelopes
School money envelopes have been sent home with the newsletter this week. If any money is required to come to school, please put it in the envelope and write your child’s name, class, amount and what the money is for on the front. This way the money will not get lost and we know exactly what it is for. At any time you run low call into the admin office and we will supply you with more.

WEEKLY CLASS AWARDS TERM 1 WEEK 5
KJ – Harvey Williams, Lubna Cook
1/2W – Coco Bailey, Rachana Terry
1/2F – Claire Hardy, Buraq Jan
3/4T – Trae Hammond, Jake Chestnut
3/4Z – Shuruq Goss, Justin Perkins
4/5P – Lilli Lawson, Ashlea Haynes
5/6HH – Tim George, Jayda Pearce
5/6D – Seth Hicks, Isabelle Finlayson

CLASS OF THE WEEK – KJ

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Book Club due back by Monday, 21st March, 2016

Stewart House Coin Drive
On Friday, 11th March, 2016 we are having a Coin Drive to raise money to support local students attending Stewart House in 2016. Our line last year was just under 100m, and we would like to try and beat that this year. The class with the longest line will win a bonus prize. So start collecting coins!

CANTEEN LUNCH SPECIAL
Salad Sandwich, piece of fruit plus bottle of water $5.00
Available for lunch

STEWART HOUSE
**BROKEN HILL/BARRIER SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

What an awesome performance from our BHPS swimming team at the Broken Hill Barrier Carnival last Thursday afternoon. All our swimmers swam hard and did Central proud. Congratulations to Gabriela Marrone-Sadauskas who was named 2016 Junior Girl Champion. Well done! (Absent from photo: Noah Nelson, Logan Haylett)

![Photo of Gabriela Marrone-Sadauskas holding a medal.]

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**COUNTRY RUGBY LEAGUE**

Last Tuesday afternoon our primary students had a memorable visit from the Country Rugby League. The presentation included a health and wellbeing quiz, a chance to ask the NRL stars questions and lots of free goodies. Thank you very much to Craig MacLeod our CRL Community Engagement Sports Officer, his staff, Anthony Minichiello from Sydney Roosters and Dan Hunt from St George/Illawarra Dragons. Our kids loved it!

![Photo of primary students with Country Rugby League staff.]

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![Photo of Craig MacLeod with a young student.]

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![Photo of another young student with Dan Hunt.]

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It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

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It takes strong parenting ...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rareity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workplace, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.