



Avoca Beach Public School Newsletter



Term 1

2009

Week 7

9th March, 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

P&C MEETING will be held in the staffroom at 7.30pm tonight. All are welcome.

BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION (BER) is part of the Commonwealth Government's economic stimulus package. As stated in the media, its first objective is to create jobs through construction works and maintenance projects at schools across the state. It is important that you are aware that figures reported in the media suggesting total funding of \$3.2 million per school are incorrect. The Commonwealth has set out indicative funding caps for each school based on enrolment numbers. \$3.2 million is the maximum figure for schools with more than 400 students. These indicative figures do not represent a set amount of funding for each school.

The funds allocated to NSW must be used immediately, so that the economic benefits occur now, when they are needed. All projects need to be completed by the end of March 2011. This means projects that cannot be delivered within the required time will not be funded under this initiative.

To begin with, NSW Government schools must deliver \$220 million worth of projects for the first stage of the BER Program by 30 June 2009.

To get work underway immediately in schools across NSW, some of the works that schools have already nominated and which have been placed on a waiting (or priority) list, may now be fast tracked. In our case it is the replacement of inadequate roof gutters and the replacement of the footpath from the basketball court to the bottom gate.

The Commonwealth has also allocated funds for other projects. The building of school halls and libraries is the first priority for schools that do not have these facilities. Because Avoca Beach school underwent an upgrade several years ago our facilities are deemed adequate. However, We have applied for the replacement of the two demountables with permanent classroom facilities, a cola to be placed over the basketball courts and another cola in the Stage 2 area, interactive whiteboards for all classrooms (I'm not confident this will fit into the criteria) and the extension of the room behind the canteen (FSU) for storage purposes. Because of the strict Commonwealth timeframes all schools need to have their priorities returned to the department by 16 March. If you can think of another project besides the one mentioned, please talk to me about it. Discussion has already occurred with the staff and P&C members.

A webpage with more information has been established and is available at: www.det.nsw.edu.au.

As I'm sure you would understand, for work to be completed in the timeframes set down by the Commonwealth Government some projects (that would

normally only be carried out during school holidays) will be undertaken during the school term. We might have to slightly alter the way we organise classes or use facilities. We believe that some short term inconvenience to achieve greater longer term benefits for students is worthwhile.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

THE LATEST CRAZE among the younger students involves plastic objects called **GO GO CRAZY BONES**. Some students have had their crazy bones taken by other students and have naturally become quite upset. Mrs Gillett announced at last Wednesday's assembly that if there are any more problems with the crazy bones they will be banned from school.

ROAD SAFETY Last Thursday morning Mrs Duck (3/4D) and I met with the school Road Safety Education consultant for the Hunter/Central Coast Region. The main aim of the meeting was to investigate how she (Lisa Hammond) may be able to assist this school community in the review of current policy and management procedures, teaching and learning content (in this area) and whole school activities. We agreed that a starting point would be to review what happens from 3.15pm to 3.45pm each afternoon during the week. She is aware of the P&C pick up and drop off proposal. The initial outcome of Thursday morning's meeting is a proposed site inspection at a mutually convenient time involving GCC Road Safety Officer, GCC Traffic engineer, P&C reps and ABPS staff reps. Out of this safety meeting we expect to be able to identify a list of actions the school community will be responsible for and what the GCC will be responsible for. The meeting will also include an examination of the P&C proposal and previous proposals that have been made to the council by the school and P&C Association. Included in the review will be the process we use to take students down and back from Heazlett Park. You will be kept informed of further progress.

REMINDERS

1. Interrelate sessions will be held **Wednesday 11 March in the school library.**
Years 3/4 - 7.00pm
Years 5/6 - 8.15pm
2. Please sign and return your child's progress report to his/her class teacher to confirm it has gone home.

Peter Whelan,
Principal.

HUNTER SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

In 2009 applications for Primary students to audition for the Hunter School of Performing Arts close 17th June with auditions scheduled early Term 3. Interested parties may obtain more information at www.hspa.nsw.edu.au.

Tasmin Gillett,
Assistant Principal.

HELP!

We need girls underpants size 4-6 in good condition to use for occasional "accidents". Please send to school office.

REMINDERS

- School Costs—\$38 per student, maximum of \$80 for 3 or more students.
- Last day for entry fees for Uni of NSW Tests - Friday 13th March.
- Stage 2 Colonial Show 16.3.09 \$16 (includes sausage sizzle).
- Year 6 T-Shirts \$25.
- Stage 3 Bathurst Excursion 31.3.09—2.4.09 \$245.
- Year 4 Camp Toukley 6.4.09—7.4.09 \$105.
- School Fair 29.3.09.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

The fair is only 3 weeks away and that means 3 weeks until the \$2 jar stall.

On **Friday 20th March** there will be a **Mufti Day** where children bring in a \$2 jar.

For new comers, this is the most popular stall at the fair. Fill an empty jar with something to the value of \$2 e.g. lollies, toys, marbles, stickers, tattoos etc.

Decorate the jar if you would like to. The more jars, the more money the school makes! So start collecting and filling jars!

Thank you,
Linda King,
Stall Coordinator.

WHITE ELEPHANT STALL

A reminder to everyone to clear out those cupboards and bookshelves! With the fair only two weeks away, we are looking for items for the white elephant stall (no baby items) and books. If anyone would like to help on the bookstall, could you please phone Carmel on 4382 6866 or 0424 062 909.

RAFFLE TICKET SALES INCENTIVE

Another great weekend of Raffle Ticket Sales. The top incentive prize of a \$200 Rebel Sports Voucher for the family selling the most tickets is being hotly contested!!

It is not too late to have the chance to sell tickets for the school at local shopping centres. If you want to win the \$200 Rebel Sports Voucher, Call Evelyn on 4382 6639.

If you are unable to help on weekends, keep trying to sell your tickets to friends, neighbours and colleagues. The GPK PIZZA PARTY is back again and returned books of sold raffle tickets are worth 10pts for your class. Obviously these will have a big impact on which class wins, so please try and sell at least all the tickets in your book, and return it to the front office, with your child's name and class. Partially sold books are worth 1 pt. If you need extra books, please see the front office staff, or send a note to school with your child.

