We respect and acknowledge the Dharug people as the traditional custodians of this land.

The Principal’s Message

Dear Blacktown North Public School community,

Students have settled well into their new classes. A letter went home on Monday stating what class your child is in for the year. We appreciate all your patience and support.

There are a few changes made by the Department of education that parents need to be aware of.

- Holidays and travel outside school vacation periods will now be included as absences, they are no longer exempt
- Children that arrive at school without adult supervision before teacher commence playground duty at 8.20am will be issue with a departmental issued letter. An example of the letter is attached to the newsletter.

Before and After school care
A reminder that Before and After School Care is available at our school in the morning and afternoon. There are spaces available. If you wish further information, we do have a pamphlet at the front office.

Swim Scheme will commence on the 9th March and finishes on the 20th March. If your child received a letter he/she is eligible to attend. Spaces are limited so please send the permission form with payment to the office ASAP.

Transition to school will commence on Tuesday 17th February in the Hall at 9.00am. Mrs De La Paz will be running the program. A letter was sent out to parents that have enrolled their children for 2016 Kindergarten. If your child turns 5 before the 31st July 2106 you are encouraged to fill out an enrolment form so that your child can attend the program. Through this program we are able to prepare children in early literacy and mathematical skills before they begin school. Please go to the front office if you wish to enrol your child.

Playtime has commenced. The first gathering was on Monday 9th February. All parents with children 0-5 years are welcome to join. It is a good way for children to develop language and social skills and for parents to socialise and get to know one another. It will be held in the hall.

Classes for 2015:
- KM Mrs Harding 1/2P Mrs Prasad
- KA Miss Butler 3/4K Mrs Kerr
- 1/2R Miss Rumsey 4/5L Mrs Lukachich
- 1/2B Mrs Bishop 5/6S Mrs Kaira

Skoolbag Phone App
We now have a phone app, please install on your Smartphones. It will be used for reminders of events, news and other communication. It is free from the App Store – type in Blacktown North Public School and add to your Apps.

Chill and Chat morning Tea in the library on Thursday 19th February at 9.00am.

MEET THE TEACHER

On Tuesday 17th February we will be holding a meet the teacher session K-2 in the hall & 3-6 Library. Please join us at 3pm for a cuppa and find out what will be happening in 2015.

The education and wellbeing of our students is of the utmost importance to us and we look forward to working with you. We have high expectations for your children both academically and socially. Yours in partnership,

Mrs Carmen Cefai
Principal
Canteen News

As of Monday 2nd February, our school canteen operator, Healthy Canteens Australia, will be operating the following days and times:

Monday    – lunch orders only
Thursday   – lunch orders only
Friday     – lunch orders plus ice block sales at lunch time at the canteen.

Please note the canteen will not be open in the mornings or recess any day of the week.

As per last year, simply place your lunch orders in the lunch order letterbox at the school entrance before 9am for collection by the canteen staff.

Any lunch orders received after 9.15am will not be collected.

We will continue to provide high quality, fresh food choices, while offering a great variety of choices to students.
Thank you for supporting our school canteen.

Healthy Canteens Australia

Cool Kids Crunch&Sip®!
Don’t forget the bottle of water and fruit or vegetables for Crunch&Sip® everyday!
Healthy Suggestion for Students

Water is the best drink for kids

Students are able to keep a bottle of plain water on their desk to drink during the day. When students don’t drink enough water, they can become dehydrated, which causes headaches, irritability and restlessness in the classroom.

Plain tap water is the best thirst-quencher as it has no added sugars, and contains a mineral that helps strengthen teeth and bones. Soft drinks, cordials, sports drinks and flavoured mineral waters contain 6 teaspoons of sugar in every 250ml glass, which means they contain a large amount of energy. This can contribute to dental caries and decay and an excess energy intake (which can lead to overweight and obesity).

So make sure you encourage your child to drink plain tap water at school by sending a bottle in their school bag. Children often enjoy cold water, so why not freeze a bottle to send in the lunchbox?

Also, try making water readily available at home. Have a jug of cold water in the fridge and place a jug of water on the table at meal times. Or make jugs of water more appealing by adding a slice of lemon or ice cubes made in novelty shaped trays.

Sending water to school will help prevent dehydration and help your child work and play all day long.

Summer fruits

Summer fruits are often the fruit children love the most. And with scrumptious stone fruits, mouth-watering melons and beautiful berries on offer, who can blame them!

A small container of mixed berries, sliced peach or nectarine or chopped melon makes a delicious Crunch&Sip® (or any other time!) treat. These soft fruits are also kind on wiggly teeth.

These fruits are extra sweet and juicy, so make sure you send along a paper napkin or sheet of paper towel for your child to wipe their hands!

Autumn fruits

Autumn brings delicious fruits and salad vegetables for students to enjoy during Crunch&Sip®. Crunchy cucumber, crisp snow peas, sweet cherry tomatoes and delicious plums are all in season at the moment and they taste great!

A mini salad of chopped cucumber, snow peas, cherry tomatoes and carrot sticks makes a tasty and colourful Crunch&Sip® snack. Small plums are great for small hands, or give your child a kiwifruit that has been sliced in half and wrapped in plastic film.

Help! My child won’t eat fruit or veg!

Children can often be fussy about eating fruit and vegetables. Did you know that children have to be offered a food up to 10 times before they will accept and eat it? Perseverance is the key!

Why not try sneaking fruit into a favourite dessert (for example canned peaches in jelly), or grate some vegetables into a meal (such as grated carrot and zucchini into Bolognese sauce)?

Or take your child to the supermarket to pick their own sweet, crisp and delicious fruit or vegetables. They are more likely to eat them if they are involved in selecting them.

Crunch&Sip® can help encourage children to eat fruit and vegetables. When children see their peers enjoying fruit and vegetables in class, they are more likely to eat them too.

Crunch&Sip® happens in our school at Blacktown North Public School each day. Make sure you send fruit or salad vegetables and water to school with your child for Crunch&Sip®.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following students who will celebrate a birthday in January & February

January
Musawir Baluchzada
Eshan Binesh
Sandya Bista Chhetri
Garv Chaudhary
Misha Danasekar
Francis Gale
Saman Habibi
Youkabed Mirzai
Maulik Mishra
David Petkovic
Axell Ramos
Ajaypal Randhawa
Maliha Royhan
Ata Surer
Thivash Yogenthiram

February
Zainab Abbas
Amardeep Kaur
Harpreet Kaur
Aftab Patwary
Priyani Singh
Shreya Tangri
Saksham Wadhwa

News from your Community Hub

Welcome back to all school families. I’m looking forward to starting off 2015 with you with some new programs and continuing with some of the old activities. The purpose of Community Hubs is to make it easier for families to access the assistance they need by bringing local education, health, community and settlement information and services into a familiar and friendly place – your school. The Hub Leader at BNPS is Annette Rolfe. If you need information or assistance with local services please come and see me in the Community Office in Block A, Mon, Tues or Wed from 8.30 am to 4pm, or call me on the school’s no: 9622 2277, or mob: 0401 683 793.

Parenting Skills Courses

‘1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching’ is a series of four workshops for parents and carers of children 2-12 years old. Each workshop will give parents some ideas to improve their parenting techniques and some strategies for managing children’s challenging behaviours. The workshops will be held in the school, starting on Monday 9th February and continuing for four Mondays. Each workshop runs for two hours between 12pm to 2.30pm. Free child care is available for parents attending the workshops. Full details are on the flyer in this newsletter.
Please book your place in the workshops and child care as soon as possible. See Annette in the Community Office or phone 0401 683 793.

‘Engaging Adolescents Parent Course’ is a four-session program for parents and carers of teenagers. The sessions are designed to help parents build good relationships with their teenagers and give suggestions for resolving common teenage behaviour problems. The course will be held at Marist Youth Care Office in Blacktown starting on Thursday 19th February and continuing for four Thursdays. Each session runs from 10.30am to 1.30pm. The course is free with morning tea and lunch provided. Flyers with full details will be available on the community notice board or the school office.
Please register your interest with Coleen or Sandra at Junaya Family Development Services on 9621 3922

Parent helpers urgently needed

Do you have a bit of time to help your school and your teachers? Well come along next Tuesday 17th February and be part of the ‘Parent Helper’. Last year the group helped to prepare many of the resources the teachers use with your children in class. We’ll work in the library from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Afternoon tea will be available.
Dear Parents / Caregivers,
Due to pregnancy complications I will be going on leave earlier than expected and will return in 2016. I want to wish the year 6 students of 2015 all the best and hope they continue to do well in the future. I have enjoyed the short time of working with the new Kindergarten students, and I hope they continue to enjoy their first year at school. I will send photos of my little girl when she is born early April.
Mrs N Khakh.

Garden Club

Our Garden club students have had a busy time getting the garden back in shape after the school holidays. After all the December rain, the weeds flourished, and students have been very helpful weeding the garden to get rid of them.
The pumpkins are thriving, and promise to yield a good crop.
Students were very excited to be able to pick a giant zucchini, and we have another one growing even bigger!
We will be planting new seedlings in the coming weeks, and look forward to harvesting much produce as the year progresses.
Parent volunteers are welcome – we need parents to weed, trim back some plants, move soil into the raised beds etc.
If you’re able to spare some time to help out, please see Mrs Bishop.
1/2B students have had a successful start to the school year, and are settling well into their new routines.
This term we are learning about ‘Present and Past Family Life’, as well as ‘Our Daily Life’ where we’ll learn about food and where it comes from.
We have already had a great time creating Ragdoll artworks after looking at toys from long ago.

Students enjoy going out for Fitness after lunch - playing games and exercising to promote a healthy lifestyle.

In Maths we have been learning about 2- and 3-D shapes, and students had fun making 2-D shapes in groups by moving their bodies into different shapes.
Creative Dance Academy
0401 968 606

Tomorrow's Success Begins Today

- Toddler Rhythm & Movement
- Modern/Contemporary
- Junior Dance & Funk
- Jazz
- Tap
- Acrobatics
- Drama
- Classical Ballet

10% DISCOUNT on the first month's tuition for all NEW students on presentation of this leaflet at first lesson.

Past students include Bec Cartwright star of television's "Home & Away" & winner of "Dancing with the Stars"
3 Students cast in the hugely popular musical production of "Billy Elliot"

Children accepted from 2 years to Advanced Level and are all trained in R.A.D. Classical Ballet, L.G.T.D.A. Newcastle Tap, Eisteddfod Work & Shows.

Creative Dance Academy
at 7 locations
North Richmond
Woodcroft
Bligh Park
Vineyard
Cranebrook
Wilberforce
Stanhope Gardens

www.creativedance.com.au
0401 968 606

Amanda Page or Kelli Burke
email: info@creativedance.com.au

Mary Street
Childcare Centre & Preschool

- 40 place centre for 2-6 years
- High quality care & safe and spacious backyard
- Qualified, experienced & dedicated educators
- Focusing on the Early Years Learning Framework
- School Readiness Program (Literacy & Numeracy)
- $59 per day/CCB & CCR available
- Animal farm & vegie garden enclosed
- Free programs include:
  Computer / Second Language / Science

OPEN 7AM-6PM (MON-FRI)
Enrolment Enquiries: 9621-8778

15 Mary Street Blacktown NSW 2148
www.marystchildcare.com.au
Tell Them From Me
Student Feedback Survey
Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

What is the Tell Them From Me student survey?
The Tell Them From Me student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students.
The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

What kind of questions will the survey ask?
The survey will ask students questions about:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in Sports</th>
<th>Homework Behaviour</th>
<th>Expectations for Success</th>
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<td>Teaching Rigour</td>
<td>Participation in Clubs</td>
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<td>Experiences of being bullied</td>
<td>Positive Teacher-Student Relations</td>
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<td>Interest and Motivation</td>
<td>Effective Learning Time</td>
<td>Positive Learning Climate</td>
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<td>Positive Relationships</td>
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<td>Teaching Relevance</td>
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How have schools been selected to take part?
The survey is open for all NSW government schools to participate in at no cost to them. Your school has taken up this offer.

How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?
The Tell Them From Me student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.
Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?
The survey typically takes less than 35 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

Does my child have to participate?
No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time. Parents/Students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.
Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the Department’s Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide analysis. Individual students’ data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publication.

What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders may use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school.

CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the Department, including performance data. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE’s analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department’s continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate.

When will the Tell Them From Me survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools between Monday 9 March and Thursday 2 April 2015 (Weeks 7-10 of Term 1).

What is the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE)?

CESE is part of the Department of Education and Communities. It has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in NSW.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all education sectors.

What is The Learning Bar and what is their role?

The Learning Bar is an international education company, with offices in Australia and Canada, that specialises in school surveys and student assessments. They have been contracted by the Department to run the surveys for NSW public schools. Its survey, Tell Them From Me, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada’s ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years.

The Learning Bar has conducted surveys in Australia before, with schools helping to adapt surveys, ensuring they are appropriate to an Australian context. For purely administrative purposes, The Learning Bar will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than The Learning Bar and CESE researchers within the Department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.


Contact Details

For more information about the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, please contact us:

- case@det.nsw.edu.au
- www.cese.nsw.gov.au
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