Principals Message

We have a WONDERFUL librarian at Old Bar School. Mrs Hennessy has a real passion for children and books. She is also great at sharing and has begun bringing me a new picture book each day to enjoy. Sometimes the book will sit on my desk for quite some time as I busily attend to the ‘urgent.’ It’s a good reminder to me that I need to stop and take a little time to escape into a story and enjoy the magic that only a book can bring. Recently she shared a beautiful book about a war ravaged country. The illustrations were truly beautiful and the story moving. The message was ‘books are a treasure.’ Do you have special childhood memories of a favourite book/s? I do! Developing a love of reading in your children is easy. Read with them, read to them and read often. Read special books and create memories that will last a lifetime. Here’s a little text from one of my ‘treasures.’ The first parent/carer to identify the passage will earn a surprise. Just email or pop in to see me with the answer.

“Would you tell me please which way I ought to go from here?”
“That depends a good deal on where you want to go,” said the Cat.
“I don’t much care where…” said Alice. “Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the Cat.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day 21st March is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By celebrating Harmony Day, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. A note outlining our participation in Harmony Day will be sent home today with your children. Get involved – it’s going to be a fun time. Go to www.harmony.gov.au/ for more information and lots of ideas!

Thank You

Thanks to all the families who have paid in part or full their 2013 school fees.
contributions. This money will be used to purchase iPads for use in classrooms. The response has been good – let's make it great! Remember, you can make smaller payments over time if this is more convenient. Great job team Old Bar PS!

Musical
The dates have been set for our musical performance, 2013. The format will be changing slightly due to our increase in numbers. This year we are proposing 2 concerts: A matinee performance on Monday 16th September for K-2 students and an evening performance for students in Y3 – Y6 on Tuesday, 17th September. This should alleviate the issue we had two years ago with a shortage of tickets! We are still very much in the ‘consultation’ stage and can’t divulge too many details at this time. But, you can mark in your diaries the dates and get prepared for some stunning entertainment from the students of Old Bar PS. Very exciting.

Bus Travel
This week I have rung our local bus company to discuss the possibility of having two buses to serve our school. As our student numbers increase, the bus becomes more crowded. As the bus becomes more crowded there are more frequent stops and the bus is late reaching its destination. Some students are now waiting after school for up to 45 minutes to catch the bus home. Often the bus is late to arrive in the morning which in turn impacts on student learning. I must say, we have a very dedicated bus driver who always puts the children first. This is not about him needing to do anything differently – it’s about getting the safest possible outcome for our children. If you, too, have concerns please talk to one of our P&C representatives. Together, we can make a difference!

Did you know…..
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ADS) is an ‘umbrella’ term that refers to a range of conditions that share common characteristics, including Autistic disorder and Asperger’s disorder. The causes of ASD are unclear, but its characteristics include difficulties with communicating, problem-solving and social skills. ADS is a brain-based condition – that is, where the brain hasn’t developed in a typical way. Although no two children with Autism are the same, they all face challenges in interacting and communicating with others. We don’t know what exactly causes ASD, but the latest research shows that in children with ASD, different parts of the brain don’t communicate with each other effectively. Children with ASD have a wide range of difficulties and abilities. Need more information? There’s a great website called ‘Raising children Network’ (The Australian parenting website) It’s brilliant – check it out.

2nd April is World Autism Day. At Old Bar School we will recognise this day by wearing ‘blue.’ More details next week!

CONGRATULATIONS to both the outgoing and incoming P&C committees. The AGM last night was filled with great enthusiasm, good humour and lots of chocolate. Amazing things happen when a group of dedicated parents get together – you must feel SO proud of your efforts.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

Cheers!
Deborah Scanes

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
A BIG thank you to all parents and carers of students in classes KS, KM, KL, K/1C, 1S, 1G and 1/2S for your patience and co-operation with regards to our new 3pm pick-up routine. There have been some bugs that needed sorting out – we are gradually refining this routine. The children are managing with...
their allotted lining up places with great maturity. I know the teachers are finding this new routine much more manageable as they are able to see their students being picked-up safely. This is an important element of their ‘duty of care’ to your children.

If you still have concerns about where you should collect your child/children in the afternoon, PLEASE speak to one of the teachers. Congratulations on coping with this CHANGE!

P&C News
The P&C AGM and monthly meeting were held last night. We proudly announce our committee for 2013: President-Kim Moses, Vice President-Mhora Davies & Chris Rowsell, Correspondence-Liz Lynch, Treasurer- Robyn Williams, Fundraising- Liz Cronk & Mel Rosamond, Canteen Secretary-Jo Burge, Canteen Treasurer-Mel Tainton.

We were not able to fill the role of minutes secretary, if you feel that this may be something you could assist in, please contact Kim Moses on 0428 533 529. The position involves writing down what occurs at the meetings, motions moved etc and then typing them up prior to the next meeting.

Harmony Day Thursday 21st March
The Canteen will be having a sausage sizzle. Students can order their sausage sizzle on a paper bag and place in lunch baskets. (Parents do not need to do this) Please note that no other Normal menu lunches will be available this day. Prices as follows: Sausage Sizzle-$1.00, Bottled Water-$1.00, Muffins- $1.00, Focacia- $1.00, Fruit Cup-$1.00, Breadsticks- 10c plain, 20c cheese. If you are available to assist in the canteen please see our wonderful canteen supervisor Sheryl.

Five Cent Drive
This week’s results are as follows:

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Cross Country Friday 22nd March
The P&C provide fresh fruit for all students on this day. Please if you can spare some time Friday morning, please come up to Old Bar Oval from 9-15 to assist prepare the fruit for the children.

Manning Zone Rugby League Trials
On Wednesday Payton Blanch, Jake Hines, Charlie Martin, Jaxon O’Connor, Alex Slade and Troy Woodward travelled to Tuncurry to trial for the Manning Zone PSSA Rugby League team. Each student represented Old Bar School with pride and played hard and fair football. Each boy was able to showcase their skills and talents with other talented footballers from the area. Payton, Jaxon, Alex and Troy were successful in gaining selection and will now travel to Raymond Terrace to trial for the Hunter PSSA Rugby League team. Congratulations to each boy that participated on the day, you did yourselves and Old Bar School proud.

Tinonee PS Fete
The fete will be held on: Saturday 16 March 10am to 3.00pm Venue: Tinonee Public School Manchester Street Tinonee Join us for fun at the fete! With
over 40 stalls to visit. Showbags, Rides, Putt Putt Golf, BBQ, Country Kitchen and many more.

Taree Auskick’s next Registration Day is Thursday the 14 March at Stockland Mall, Forster between 5pm & 7pm. Registered Participants in the program receive an Auskick backpack containing a football, pump, drink bottle, cap, pencil case and lots more. For further details contact Taree AFL Auskick on 6553 3345.