

B.G.S GAZETTE

BRODERICK GILLAWARNA SCHOOL

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

CALENDAR

16th -26th February

PLP Meetings

3rd March

P & C Meeting

5th March

Year 7 Immunisations

18th March

Cancer Council Parent
meeting

1st April

School photos

2nd April

Last Day of School

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Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to the first school term in 2015. My name is Wendy Milburn and I'm relieving for Karen McDonnell for the year. My substantive position is Principal at Chalmers Road School in Strathfield which is the same type of school as Broderick Gillawarna School. My teaching career has always been in special education as I have a deep passion and commitment for working with students with special needs and their families to assist them in reaching their potential and independence in life.

I have been warmly welcomed by everyone and right from the first day here, I see the wonderful work all staff do to make BGS such a wonderful place. It is clearly evident, that staff, are committed to providing the best education and opportunity for your child or children. I have thoroughly enjoyed already, seeing some amazing teaching, high student engagement and above all, the enthusiasm and motivation provided by teachers and SLSO's in the classrooms.

It's only been 3 weeks and I'm still learning everyone's names and roles (and getting a few wrong!) and don't know every student yet, however the level of activity that is occurring across all stages of the school is highly commendable of a school that has set high standards of expectation and education for your child.

I'd like to invite any interested parents to come to the first P&C meeting for the year on Tuesday 3rd March at 9.30am. This is your child's school and your input into providing the best opportunities for their educational future is encouraged as it is so important. Many activities have already commenced across the school such as swimming, music therapy and Indigenous games. I have met a number of parents already and have been warmly greeted and look forward to meeting many more of you over the next few weeks as you come in for your son and/or daughter's PLP meetings.

Thank you

Wendy Milburn

Relieving Principal



SENIOR CARROLL SNAPSHOT



The students of Senior Carroll 2015 have begun work at school with gusto. We celebrated Australia Day by making our own Australian flags and listening to a Dreamtime Story "Warnayarra the Rainbow Serpent". A large Rainbow serpent on the back wall of the classroom was painted and all students decorated the serpent with red, black and yellow hand prints. We are going to add some more lines and dot

printing to it. In the story the Rainbow Serpent came to the village in a storm cloud and was so powerful it destroyed the village huts, windmills, water tanks and gardens with its powerful tail. Whenever a storm is building, look carefully in the dark clouds for signs that the Rainbow Serpent is returning. We cut strips of coloured foam and glued them onto some black paper. Now we have lots of Rainbow serpents slithering across the walls of our classroom.



During Literacy sessions we have begun looking at the text "Who Sank the Boat?" This is a story about the animals of Mr Pepper's farm. One by one they climb into a small boat. The cow is the first to get in, followed by the donkey, sheep and pig. The boat was still floating on the water until the tiny little mouse hopped in. All the

animals walked back to the farm wet. We are trying to work out who sank the boat? The students have been placing the animals into the correct order of getting into the boat. We have also been using the animal puppets to try to work out just which animal sank the boat. The students used their hands to mix green, blue and white paint together on their tables and took prints with large sheets of paper. We have begun to make a display of the lake with the boat and all of the animals.



On Tuesday morning all the students in Senior Carroll went swimming for the first time in 2015. The water was



great and we all had a good time moving around the pool.

We have begun training for the NSW Boccia championships to be held later in the year. Every year a team from Broderick Gillawarna school compete against a number of other schools, but so far we have not been lucky enough to come first. Maybe 2015 will be our lucky year? On Wednesday we all participated in the Indigenous Games session. There were tunnels to crawl through, stepping stones to walk on and hurdles to step over. We also used the outdoor bowling alley to knock over as many pins as we could. A great time was had by all.

So, as you can see, the students of Senior Carroll have been extremely busy in the first weeks back to school. Keep a look out for the next exciting chapter of Carroll's Class Capers.





The simplest way
to improve the health of your
family and save money

Come to our **FREE** Healthy Lunch Box Session






Date: Wednesday, 18 March

Time: 9am-9:45am

Venue: Broderick Gillawarna School

Eating enough fruit and veg every day can help protect your kids against diseases including some forms of cancer. This popular session run by Cancer Council NSW as part of the *Eat It To Beat It* program will give you:

-  **New and exciting ideas for healthy lunch boxes your kids will love**
-  **A Show Bag including a great healthy lunch box kit and planner**
-  **Simple ways to get the whole family eating enough fruit & veg**

Don't miss out - registration is essential. To book your place please register no later than **13/3/15** by **calling or visiting the school front office**.

During 2015 we will be evaluating Healthy Lunch Box sessions with the help of researchers from the University of Sydney. Participation in the evaluation is completely voluntary.

**Eat It To
Beat It** 

P & C NEWS

The Parents & Citizens Committee will be holding their first meeting for 2015.

Date: 3rd March 2015

Time: 9.30 am

Where: School Hall

All Parents are welcome

PARENT FACT SHEET #1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Assisted School Travel Program

Parents play an important role in supporting the safe travel needs of their child to and from school.



Assisted School Travel Program

All families are responsible for the transport of their children to and from school. Families who have a child with a disability may be eligible for transport through the Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP).

The program supports those eligible students who need transport assistance in order to attend school where it is necessitated by the nature of the student's disability and the circumstances of the family.

Families and schools need to assess a student's travel support needs and explore the suitability of all forms of travel to and from school including the *School Student Transport Scheme* and the *Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy*. Both schemes are managed by Transport for NSW. Your child's school will provide information for you on these schemes.

Eligibility criteria for ASTP

To be eligible to apply for ASTP a student must be:

- assessed as having an identified disability according to the Department of Education and Communities' Disability Criteria May 2003 **and**
- a NSW resident and enrolled in the closest appropriate NSW government or non-government school **and**
- enrolled in a special school or support class or an early intervention program or require high level assistance for mobility purposes if enrolled in mainstream **and**
- assessed as unable to travel independently.

In addition, a student must have parents¹ who are unable to provide transport to and from school either fully or in part.

Complete Part A of the *Application for Assisted School Travel* form which is available from the ASTP website www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/program/astp/index.php and submit it to the school when completed. Schools then complete Part B.

If you are unable to transport your child to and from school, supporting documentation may be required and should accompany the application.

Who approves applications and organises ASTP?

The school lodges your application for assessment and processing by ASTP. Where possible, ASTP will do this within seven working days and you will be advised in writing of the outcome.

If travel is approved, ASTP will organise the transport arrangements for your child. Before transport commences the contractor/driver will contact you regarding pick up and drop off times to and from your child's school.

¹ Reference in this document to "parent" includes a guardian, carer or other person having the parental responsibility or care of the student



What happens if I move?

Inform the school. The school will complete a *Variation to Approved Travel Arrangements* form where there is a change of residential address, a change to school attendance times or a request for transport to respite services.

Variations may be permanent or temporary. For permanent variations Part A of the *Application for Assisted School Travel* is also completed by parents. Requests for temporary variations can only be supported if there is an existing transport service available. Your school will advise if any additional information is needed.

What additional supports are available?

Sometimes a child's travel support needs change. The school, in consultation with you, will complete a *Change Request* form when this occurs.

An Assisted Travel Support Officer (ATSO) can be requested for students with additional needs due to behavioural and/or medical issues. ATSOs provide a high level of supervision during travel.

Parents and schools should ensure that ATSOs and drivers are made aware of a child's specific needs for travel. ATSOs will follow strategies listed in the child's travel support plan developed by the school. If a child requires an ATSO, transport cannot commence unless an ATSO is present in the vehicle.

Please note that ATSOs and drivers are not allowed to administer medication without the authorisation of ASTP.



What are my responsibilities as a parent?

Parents play an important role in supporting the safe travel needs of their child to and from school. To assist parents are responsible for:

- providing accurate information to the school in the application process
- ensuring your child is ready to meet the transport at the specified time and place
- being present to meet the vehicle at the pick-up/drop-off point 15 minutes either side of the arranged time

- assisting or lifting your child in and out of the vehicle. Drivers may assist with wheelchairs

- ensuring your child is safely seated with seatbelts fastened and all loose equipment stored away
- providing appropriate seating and other equipment as specified in the child's travel plan (no food or drink to be consumed in vehicle without authorisation of ASTP)

- notifying the contractor/driver if your child is not attending school on a particular day

- notifying the school and ASTP if your circumstances change or if you have any concerns about transport.

ASTP responsibilities - screening of travel staff

All drivers and ATSOs undergo screening to meet child protection requirements. Runs are required to have relief drivers/ATSOs to cover absences. All drivers/ATSOs are also screened prior to employment.

Please ask to see identification if you have any concerns about the identity of unfamiliar travel staff. All vehicles contracted for the ASTP must meet safety standards set by Transport for NSW Roads and Maritime Services.



What can I do if my application for ASTP services is not approved?

Contact the school in the first instance to discuss the reasons as to why your application was not approved. Schools and parents can then seek advice from ASTP. Parents may lodge an appeal to ASTP using the *Appeals Panel Request* form. Additional supporting information should be sent along with this form. The Appeals Panel meets once a month and you will be advised in writing of the appeal outcome.

Where can I find further information?

The ASTP website contains information about the program, the eligibility criteria, how to apply and all the necessary forms – <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/astp/>

If you have any questions or concerns relating to applications, ATSOs, drivers or travel arrangements for your child, please contact your school or ASTP staff for assistance Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm on 1300 338 278 or email ASTP at parents.astp@det.nsw.edu.au

Further Information

Assisted School Travel Program
Locked Bag 7009
Wollongong East
NSW 2520

generalenquiries.astp@det.nsw.edu.au

1300 338 278

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/student-support/programs/astp/