ICAS Maths Test
The ICAS Mathematics test will be held on Tuesday August 12th. Students undertaking the test should check on Monday to make sure that they have the correct equipment with them.

Premier’s Spelling Bee
The annual Premier’s Spelling Bee for Primary students will be held in the school library on Wednesday August 13th at 1:30 pm. As I have on occasion in the past, I will be one of the announcers along with our librarian Mrs Mary Langdon.

It has been very pleasing to see the level of spelling in this competition improving over the years and I am looking forward to the efforts of our Primary students in 2014.

And...a Final Farewell
Friday August 15th will be my last day as Principal of BCS, barring the unforeseen. I will be taking a period of long service leave before retiring on November 17th 2014.

I have been Principal of BCS for sixteen years and a part of the NSW public education system for very nearly 37 years. In that time I have seen much change within the system, generally for the better but not always so.

BCS is a wonderful school in a great town. I have often thought over the years that many people do not realise what a good place to work in and learn in it really is. This is because people have nothing to measure it against, including teaching personnel. A quick visit to parts of south western Sydney, for example, would quickly dispel any doubts that anyone held.

People do not go into teaching to be rich and/or famous. It is a very demanding occupation, more so than ever in the 21st century. Australia has become time poor as parents and caregivers are placed under increasing strain to be more productive and efficient. Schools have taken much more of a “parenting” role than they once did. I have even seen letters in newspapers to the effect that minding children while the parents work is a major function of modern schools. I don’t agree, but the sentiment is out there in some quarters.

There is also a much greater divide between public education and its alternatives than in the past. It is a division justified by giving “choice” but that can be shorthand for “privilege”, “advantage” and “superiority”. Equally, I would never deny the right of people practising a particular form of religion to have their children educated in a school imbued with that ethos.

Public education can be very proud of the fact that it provides an education for all young people. No one is rejected because of a disability, be it social, physical or cognitive. Some of the best moments of my career have been to see people overcome adversity to achieve to their potential.

A number of people have asked whether I would be moving from the town. I do not intend to do so. Braidwood has been good to my family and I, it is very much “home”.

If you would like to receive the Braidwood Central School newsletter by email, please contact us at braidwood-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

The newsletter is also available to download each week from our school website.

Front Office Phone 4842 2249
Canteen Phone 4842 2251
The same people have also asked what I will do after retiring. I have a number of things planned but I have been receiving training to broadcast on local radio. There will be a weekly book reading and for those many people who let me know that they regretted the passing of “Moments in History” in the school newsletter there will be a weekly spot where a wide range of historical topics will be discussed.

I went into teaching because my teachers took a young fellow of very humble origins and recognised that he had a bit of ability. At Narrandera Primary, Guildford West Primary and Merrylands High they developed, nurtured and honed it. People who taught me; Mr Ridgeway, Mr Gilligan, Mrs Owen, Mrs Farrow, Miss Smith, Miss Turnbull, Mr Richards, Mr Hewitt, Miss Buttel, Mrs Cassidy, Mr Flynn and many others all showed me that you can make a difference in another’s life because they made a difference to me. I have never forgotten them and never will.

My fond hope is that I have made a “difference” in the lives of others in my years at BCS.

Rod McClure
Principal

Deputy News

Subject Selection 2015
I would like to thank parents and students who attended the information sessions regarding subject choices for 2015. There were over 80 people in attendance.

All students will have received their booklets from their Year Adviser. Copies are available on the schools website.

Completed selection forms are to be returned to Ms Parsons the Careers Adviser no later than Monday 25th August.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need and clarification or assistance with this important decision.

Mr Peter Neilsen
Deputy Principal

Braidwood Central School is a Uniformed School

Some of the reasons why we are encouraging students to wear school uniform:

- Improves safety of students
- Less peer pressure
- Develops school spirit
- More cost effective
- Enhances focus and thus improves academic performance
- Meets OHS requirements for practical classes

If you require assistance to access a school uniform please contact me at the school.

The school uniform shop is open before and after school each Wednesday. Orders are also taken via the front office.

DID YOU KNOW:

Elective subject booklets that provide subject information for students entering Year 9, 10 and 11 in 2015 are now available on the website. Go to http://www.braidwood-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/curriculum-activities/secondary-subjects. Subject choices need to be made by 25 August 2014.
Primary News

Student of the Week

Our Students of the Week (one from each class) are chosen by the Assistant Principals, Mr Clarke and Mrs Davis. These award cards also count towards the students’ Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Students are nominated for consistently displaying our PBS values of consideration, achievement, responsibility and enthusiasm. Congratulations to these students:

Peaches: Cheyanne Murray
Apples: Charlie Jonas
Kidmans: Millie Potter
Scarecrows: Jacob McKendry
Yabbies: Jallamara Gardner
Clydesdales: Sarah Williams
Drovers: LJ De Vera

Assembly

For this term only, while the Gymnastics program is running, Primary assemblies will be held on Fridays at 12 o’clock in the small hall. Parents and visitors are most welcome to attend our assemblies. We have a full assembly with a class performance and presentation of awards every second week. In the alternating weeks we have a ‘mini’ assembly where we present awards without a class performance. Due to Mr Clarke attending a Maths training day last week Clydesdales will be presenting their assembly item this Friday 15th August.

Premier’s Spelling Bee

Our school finals for the Premier’s Spelling Bee are on this Wednesday 13th August at 1.30pm in the Library. Competitors have received a note and lists of words to practice to help them prepare. This year we are trialling the inclusion of Year Two students as many of them have expressed interest in competing.

The winners and runners-up from Stage 2 and Stage 3 will go on to compete at the Regional Finals in September at Sunshine Bay Public School. Mr Julian Davies will coach our four regional finalists to assist them in preparing for this challenging competition. Parents, Carers, family and friends are welcome to come along on Wednesday to support our competitors.

Wendy Davis
Relieving Assistant Principal

Year 6 says ‘thank you’

The Drovers had a fantastic time organising the Year 6 Fair for the recent Braidwood Celebrates event.

The students are delighted to announce that they raised $160 at their stalls.

This money has now been donated to YouthCare Canberra, World Vision, RSPCA ACT, Vision Australia, and the Starlight Foundation. The students identified these causes as the ones they care about the most.

Year 5/6 Camp

Medical consent forms are now due for all students attending the Year 5/6 Camp at Jindabyne in September.

Thank you for spending your coins at the Year 6 Fair.
Mrs Sweeney and Year 6
Please make sure you fill in the specific medical consent form that was sent home with camp information (NOT the medical consent form with the BCS logo on it, which you may have filled out for other excursions.) If you are unsure, please ask your child to see Mrs Sweeney. We would also appreciate the prompt payment of any outstanding monies. Thank you.

### Year 6 Puberty Program

Notes went home last week informing parents of puberty information sessions, to be run by Jo Parsons, on 26th and 28th August, 2014. All Year 6 students will attend. We encourage ALL parents to attend the parent information session on Thursday 28th August from 6pm – 7pm in the Year 6 room. Here are two reports received by parents following last year’s session:

**Jo Parson’s puberty workshops for Year 6 were invaluable! The parent workshop was a perfect supplement so that parents and students could all be on the same page to enable free conversation and continued learning at home - perhaps for both child and parent!! I would thoroughly recommend that parents attend this session.**

**I would highly recommend Jo’s puberty program. For the parents, Jo went through what the children had learnt and anonymously explained matters they discussed and any of their concerns, fears and feelings. Jo made the session interesting, fun and set everyone at ease.**

We do hope you can make it, to support your child’s learning at this important time in their lives. Please send back the note to let us know numbers attending (cake and coffee/tea will be served).

**Sarah Sweeney**

### Premier’s Spelling Bee – Year Three to Year Six

All Year Two to Year Six students are participating in the Premier’s Spelling Bee by taking part in fun and educational spelling activities in their classrooms. A number of students will then be selected from each class to compete in the School Finals which will be held in the Library at 1.30pm on **Wednesday 13th August**. The Junior (Years 2, 3 and 4) and Senior (Years 5 and 6) winners and runners-up will then be invited to attend the Regional Finals which will be held on Wednesday 10th September at Sunshine Bay Public School. Winners from that competition will then proceed to the State Finals which will be held in Sydney in November. All finalists will receive extra coaching at school to help them prepare for each stage of the competition. If you would like more information about the Premier’s Spelling Bee or you would like to help with coaching our finalists please see Mrs Wendy Davis.

### Secondary News

#### Homework Centre

The Homework Centre is running in the School Library on Mondays and Thursdays from 4pm-5pm.

Students can use this time to use computers, books etc for homework. Mr McClymont will be pleased to assist as necessary.

#### 40 Hour Famine

The 40 hour famine is back again this year. For those who don’t know, the 40 hour famine is an opportunity to donate to families and their children, in underdeveloped countries where malnutrition and hunger is very common.

The money raised this year, is going to Rwanda. Rwanda is crowded, and the terrain is hilly which makes it hard to raise and sustain crops. The inhabitants of Rwanda live with poor infrastructure, lack of nutrition, education and out-dated techniques for farming. This leads to crop failure and increased hunger. 43% of Rwandan children are not getting enough nutrition or food.

YOU can help to raise the money needed to fight hunger all over the world and spread awareness by participating in the 40 hour famine or donating to this worthy cause. The 40 hour famine starts on Friday 15th August at 8pm and ends at midday on Sunday 17th August.

We encourage all to join the BCS team or donate to those participating this year. The school’s goal is to raise $2000 for Rwanda. Check out the 40 hour famine on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and the FAQs for any questions, at the website.


Website: 40hourfamine.com.au
Facebook: Facebook.com/WV40hourfamine
Twitter: twitter.com/40hourfamine
Instagram: instagram.com/40HourFamineOffice

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Congratulations to Monique Dheurle and Brittany Humphries, the winners of 5kg of prawns at Celebrates Central
**Library News**

**Connect To Reading**
We are celebrating Children’s Book Week in Week 6 with a variety of activities and special events. Our Book Character Parade will be held on Wednesday 20th August in the school gym. Hopefully all Primary students are getting their book character costumes organised!

Parents/carers and interested community members are welcome to attend.

Children’s author Susan Berran will be conducting a series of special workshops for years 2 to 7 students on Friday 22nd August in our school library. Please bring in your permission note and $2 in order to attend.

Our Carnival Book Fair will be held in our school library. Lots of new children’s books (suitable for K-6 students) will be available to buy.
Opening times are as follows:
- Tues 19th Aug 8.30-10.00am
- Weds Aug 20th 8.30-10.30am
  12.30-1.30pm (after the book parade)
- Thurs 21st Aug 8.30-10.00 am
  & 3.15-5.00pm

The winner of our ‘Braidwood Celebrates’ ‘pick the winning picture book’ competition will be announced at the beginning of week 6 in the school newsletter.

Happy Reading,

Mary Langdon
Teacher Librarian

**P&C News**

**Braidwood Central School P & C Wood Raffle**
Saturday 23rd August 2014 (in front of Newsagency)
Wood kindly donated by Gurling/Bott family.
Tickets $2.00 per ticket.
Return tickets to front office at BCS.
Helpers needed for selling tickets at Wood Raffle on Saturday 23rd August.

Contact Amanda Flack 0417 422 650 or ma.flack@bigpond.com

**Thank you for your help with serving and baking**
Thank you to everyone who helped out with the catering and who donated their yummy baked goods for Braidwood’s Got Talent. It was a frantic 20 minutes to get everyone in the audience served with cakes and drinks before the interval ended, but well worth it and another step taken towards reaching our text book fundraising goal.

**Wizard sponsors needed!**

The following letter was sent to the Braidwood Times this week – if you know or a person or a business who would like to help sponsor the Wizard of Oz, please pass it on to them:

At the end of August, Braidwood residents will be heading over the Rainbow and down the Yellow Brick Road together with Dorothy, Toto, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Lion, as Braidwood Central School entertains us with another blockbuster musical - the Wizard of Oz. This is the third production staged by the school this year.

The effort that goes into putting on dramas and musicals at such regular intervals is immense, and without the support of the wider community, chipping in to build stages and scenery, paint backdrops, sew costumes, arrange lighting, and many more things, it would simply not be possible.

Current educational budgets do not stretch to cover the costs of these productions – they survive on the generosity of those helping to give up their time and materials free of charge.

But there are some things that only money can buy.

In order to ensure all the young actors in the Wizard are heard by everyone in the audience, the school needs to buy three new microphone headsets to project their voices to the back of the hall. These cost $439 each. To create the atmosphere of the dark forest, we need to buy a water mister (Hazer) that produces fake smoke without triggering asthma, at a cost of $829.

The BCS Parents and Citizens Association will be raising funds through catering at the event to cover some of these costs, but it won’t be enough. We have already received a donation to buy one of the headsets, but the Wizard desperately needs three or more generous sponsors to purchase the remaining equipment and help make the production reach its full potential. Might you be one of them?

If you would like to sponsor a microphone headset or the hazer, you can contact the school directly on 4842 2249 or the P&C at bcspandc@gmail.com or 0422 542175.
Sponsors will be recognised in the Musical Programme and associated publicity (unless you’d prefer to remain anonymous) and with a double pass to the performance of your choice.

Contact the P&C
The P&C email address is bcspandc@gmail.com or you can always contact the President, Bidda Jones, directly on 4842 7189 or 0422 542175 or bidda@sharewater.net
The Australian Red Cross Mobile Blood Service is visiting **Braidwood** (Cnr Wilson St & Kings Hwy, Braidwood),
Monday 18 August, **9.40am – 3.30pm** *(24 more donors needed)*
If you haven’t already made an appointment to give blood, you can make an appointment online or call us on **13 14 95**.

1 in 3 Australians will need blood, but only 1 in 30 donates. Donated blood helps cancer patients, people with blood disorders, mothers-to-be and newborn babies, as well as trauma and surgical patients.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,

**Australian Red Cross Blood Service**