Braidwood Central School
NEWSLETTER

**Coming Events**

**Monday 16th February**

**Tuesday 17th February**
Primary Swimming Carnival - Narooma

**Wednesday 18th February**
Secondary Zone Swimming Carnival – Narooma
Year 7/8 Parent Dinner Club
K-6 Public Speaking Information Session 5.30pm

**Thursday 19th February**

**Friday 20th February**

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**Principal’s News**

Another fabulous week of action, achievements and effective home-school partnerships - thank you.

**School leaders (another example of the leadership shown by Braidwood Central students)**

What a delight to accompany our student leaders to the announcement of a joint funding project to improve the facilities at the local recreation grounds. Our leaders stood side by side with dignitaries while the announcement was made and spoke articulately and passionately about the importance of the project to the youth of the town.

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**Meet the Teacher K-6 (an example of strong communities links)**

Thank you to all those parents and caregivers who joined us at the pool last Wednesday for the informal meet the teacher barbecue. The friendly conversations were very much appreciated. You will be able to learn more again this week.

**K-6 information evening (invitation to attend the next meeting to learn more about helping your child succeed)**

If you wish to discuss how you can help prepare your child for public speaking, you may want to join our APs, Mrs Wendy Davies and Mr Greg Clark, along with Mr Julian Davies this Wednesday 18 February from 5.30 to 6.30pm in the school library

**K-6 uniform (thank you)**

Congratulations and thank you to our K-6 parents and students what a great start to the year when we can say every child is in uniform.

**AECG meeting (report from last meeting)**

Last Tuesday afternoon, at our local AECG meeting, I had the privilege to meet with parents who are raising children who identify as Aboriginal. There are lots of things planned for this year for these students and I would encourage you to make contact with the president Mr Keith Morgan if you would like to join us at the next meeting in March.

**P&C evening (report from last meeting)**

Last Wednesday, following the K-6 meet the teacher event, I also attended the P&C meeting. Once again, the support of our parents in encouraging their children in education was evident. The discussions were varied and extensive, from school activities, to helping children and fundraising. In advance, I would like to thank the many parents who are already preparing for a major fundraiser at the Braidwood show. The money that is provided by the P&C provides valuable learning materials and activities for all children at the school. I would encourage you to get involved and, where possible, attend these meetings. Information on future meetings can be found in this newsletter.

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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
Year 10 film evening (another example of the dedication of the staff at Braidwood Central)

Last Friday night, Mrs Vanessa Willetts, Mrs Emma Munnings and Mr Darren Lennon stayed in the library at school all night to supervise students in Year 10 to view Australian films for their upcoming assessments. This is another example of our teachers' dedication in preparing students to succeed in their academic studies.

Years 7 & 8 information evening (invitation to attend the next meeting to learn more about helping your child succeed)

This Wednesday 18 February at 7pm at the club on Coronation Avenue. Meet teachers and executive, learn about assessment in the early years at high school. Learn about some of the activities and programs on offer at this school to support student learning at all levels.

Year 8, 2014 ESSA results (will be mailed this week)

This week, we will mail home the results to parents of students in Year 9 who participated in ESSA (Essential Science Skills Assessment) in November 2014. Please be aware that the sealed envelopes that parents will receive have not been prepared by the school. The school receives these results on 6 March. After that date, we will be reviewing and analysing the data. The success of our students will be evaluated, and implications for future learning in science at Braidwood will be considered.

The Braidwood Show (seeking assistance)

The Braidwood Show will be held on 7 March. It's a time to remember what makes rural life so special. A day of activities and fun centred around agricultural and cultural pursuits. Braidwood Central students will be busily preparing banners, posters and exhibits. There will be something there for each parent and caregiver to see and enjoy. If you are able to offer assistance by helping students develop skills and talents in any of the areas for show entry please contact the school and leave your details with the front office.

Getting used to new subjects and new teachers, as well as forming new friendships, are just some of the requirements at the start of a school year.

Some kids take new experiences in their stride but it is natural for some to experience difficulty. It helps to remember the Four P's to help your young person settle in:

1. Promote friendships: The quicker kids form new friendships the sooner they’ll feel comfortable in their school surroundings. Encourage your young person to be open to forming friendships with all sorts of kids; to be accepting of others who may be different to them; to take social risks by joining in activities even though, at first, they may feel uncomfortable; and to be friendly, approachable and positive!

2. Practice patience: Patience and understanding in the early weeks is essential. Brush up on your listening skills as you help your young person adjust. Talk to your young person about change and reassure them that it is normal to feel unsure or nervous in new circumstances. Let them know that many difficulties they face will be temporary.

3. Pursue a positive attitude:

Confidence is catching so make sure you see this time as an exciting challenge that your child can handle rather than to be feared. Ask them about the new subjects, new teachers or interesting activities they are doing, and try to shift their focus to the positive aspects of school. Discuss settling in issues with the appropriate person such as a classroom teacher or the year advisor, but give your young person time to handle them on their own before seeking help.

4. Process their day:

Some young people may come home with fairly exaggerated accounts of school and may not always paint a fair picture. They may become sensitive to things that they might have shrugged off in the past. Listen without judgment and show a real interest in their new school year, while providing them with the space they need to get away for a while. Expect some behaviour blowouts as many kids let off steam in the relatively safe and stable environment of a loving family.

Most importantly, talk up your young person’s school, rather than talk it down, as kids of all ages take their cues from the most significant adults in their lives – their parents!

Nerida Mosely
Principal

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. They nominate students who consistently display our PBS values of consideration, achievement, responsibility and enthusiasm. These award cards count towards the students’ Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

Congratulations to these students:

Diggers: Thomas Shoemark
Poppies: Lachlan Davys
Gallipoli: Layla Stuart
Lighthorse: Joel Cooper
Squadron 34: Jade Andreata  
Coves: Hattie Cram  
Troops: Annabel Flack

Assembly
Thank you to all the parents and visitors who were able to make it to last week’s assembly, which unfortunately had to be cut short due to school photos. At this week’s assembly we will be entertained by the Year 5/6 Troops, so please come along this Thursday 19th February at 11.30am in the hall. Everyone is welcome at our assemblies and the children love to have someone in the audience, especially when their class is performing.

Meet the Parents BBQ
On Wednesday 11 February, we hosted our first ever Primary Meet the Parents BBQ at the Braidwood Pool. This event was a real success, which enjoyed great support from our K-6 families, including many families that are new to the school. It was a fantastic way for the whole of the Primary school community to come together and enjoy good food, good company and finally, a good storm. The positive feedback we received means we’ll be holding more events like this in the future. Already on the horizon is a Primary Information Session on Wednesday 18 February, from 5:30pm in the Library. Thanks to all who attended.

Information session
Remember the information session on this Wednesday 18th February at 5.30pm. This session will provide tips for helping your children with public speaking, debating, reading and maths. Children are welcome if you are unable to make alternative arrangements.

Wendy Davis  
Assistant Principal

Secondary News
Homework Centre
The Homework Centre will resume from Monday 16 February. It will operate Mondays and Thursdays in the library - from 4 to 5pm.

Year 10 Movie Marathon and Sleep over
Much fun was had on Friday night as Year 10 English students, Ms Willets, Mr Lennon and Ms Munnings settled in for a hilarious movie marathon/sleepover in the school library.

The evening began with students setting up their sleeping bags, later dining on pizza and ice cream and welcoming a lovely surprise visit from the school principal Ms Mosely. A lot of fun was had by all and hopefully the students gained a greater understanding of
Australian humour. Thank you at all staff/students who attended the parents who supported it.

Ms Elisa Bryant

**Library News**

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**
The library operates Scholastic Book Club for students K-6. Order forms will be handed out in class on Tuesday 10 February. Orders are due back on **Tuesday 17 February**. The order forms and money should be in a sealed envelope and need to be brought to the school **library not to the Front Office**.

*PLEASE NOTE* that all cheques need to be made payable to *Scholastic* not to Braidwood Central School. Please ensure that all orders are returned by the due date as no late orders can be taken.

Any enquiries should be directed to the library.

Linda Bunn
SAO Library

**P&C News**

The P&C met last week and had a very productive evening. It was our first meeting since Ms Nerida Mosely took over as Principal, and gave us a chance to discuss plans for the coming year. It was great to see the enthusiasm with which Ms Mosely is approaching her new role. Thank you to all old and new members who came along and especially to the staff who took the trouble to attend straight after the Primary Information Evening.

Our next big fundraiser is the Braidwood Show - please look out for information in the Newsletter about how to volunteer and support the P&C at this event.

**Want to win $100? Help design a P&C Logo**
The P&C is in need of an eye-catching logo to use for our signs, banners, stationary and aprons. At the moment all we have is the school crest and our name. We need a logo that represents the P&C and all it does in a fun, friendly and striking way. So get your pens and pencils out – entries should be handed into the Front Office of emailed to **bcspsandc@gmail.com** by Friday 13 March. The winning entry will receive a $100 prize as well as having their logo used on all our P&C signage and merchandise!

**Contact the P&C**
The P&C email address is **bcspsandc@gmail.com** or you can contact the current President, Bidda Jones, directly on 4842 7189 or 0422 542175 or **bidda@sharewater.net**

Braidwood Central School P&C has a number of fundraising events throughout the year and our first one is coming up soon. Each year at the Braidwood Show, our school provides a BBQ area and a tea and coffee area; these are the main food stalls at the show. To do this we need volunteers! As you can imagine, it is a big undertaking and the more help we have the easier it is for everyone.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an information sheet for you to fill out and hand in to the front office if you are able to help. We ask that volunteers roster on for a minimum of two hours as the time flies past and this helps us to have a streamlined process.

Donations of biscuits, muffins, slices, scones and eggs would also be greatly appreciated. Please drop off any donations at the canteen or front office on Friday the 6 March 2015 or Saturday 7 of March at the show pavilion kitchen, before 11am.

It is a great way to support our school and community, have some fun and get to know some other parents.

Melissa Shoemark
Kindergarten to Year 6 Information Session

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to invite you to attend an Information Session for Parents/Carers of Primary students. The session will be a great opportunity to find out general information about your child’s classroom activities and learning, from Public Speaking, Debating and Media Studies to helping your child read. You’ll also have the opportunity to step into your child’s shoes while we show you some great maths strategies to use at home.

This is another opportunity for Braidwood Central School to develop our relationship with you as Parents and Carers – a relationship that is proven to assist students in their school life - so we would love to see you. Children are welcome to come along and use the library’s computers, books and activities while parents are attending the session.

The details are:

Date: Wednesday 18 February 2015
Location: School Library
Time: 5:30pm

Wendy Davis
Assistant Principal
16 February 2015

Greg Clarke
Assistant Principal

At Braidwood Central School we are considerate, responsible, enthusiastic achievers who care about ourselves, each other, the community and the environment.

BRAIDWOOD SHOW 2015

It is only a few short weeks until the Annual Braidwood Show and it is time again to request volunteers to help with the preparations of one of our major fundraising efforts this year.

We provide a major food outlet at the show, including bacon and egg rolls, BBQ, cakes and slices, tea and coffee. To do this we need volunteers, as you can imagine, it is a big undertaking and the more help that we have the easier it is for everyone. Below is a tear off section we would like you to fill in and return to our school office if you are able to help, indicating what time you would be available. We do ask that you please make yourself available for a minimum of two hours, as the time flies by and this helps us to streamline the roster.

For further information please contact Lisa Croxon 0438 224 537 or Melissa Shoemark 0434 215 714

It is a great way for you to support our P&C and your local community, have some fun and get to know some other parents.

Yes I would love to help with catering at the BRAIDWOOD SHOW Saturday 7th of March 2015

NAME .......................................................... CONTACT NUMBER ..........................................................

EMAIL CONTACT ............................................................................................................................

We will contact you to confirm your time slots closer to the date.

I am able to help at the time indicated below

6.00am-8.00am  8.00am-10.00am  10.00am-12.00noon  12.00noon-2.00pm  2.00pm-4.00pm
**Advertisements**

**Rugby Union Trials and 7’s**
Redbacks Under 14’s Side
Interested players should attend
Saturday 22\textsuperscript{nd} March
8.30am at the rec for a friendly 7’s comp followed by a BBQ at the club and later in the evening watching the Waratahs v Brumbies match
Contact Mick Wall 0418968229

**Junior Soccer**

The Braidwood Junior Soccer Club are holding a meeting at the Braidwood Services Club on Thursday 19 February 2015 at 7.00pm, any one interested in helping out in the 2015 season please come along. The club is continually growing each year and we always seem to have the same faces that put there hands up to help each season. So this year it would be nice to see some new faces.

It is very rewarding being involved in your child's chosen sport whether it's being involved as a coach or manager for your child's team, just helping with ground set up and pulling down at the end of the day is a great help, even just an hour helping in the canteen is a big thing as well. Many hands make light work as they say, so if you are interested in helping out in any way (Big or Small) Please come along and join us working out our kid's 2015 soccer season.
Braidwood Junior Soccer Club

**HELP NEEDED**
Monday 2 March from 9.30am onwards to help with show entries
Thursday 5 March from 9am onwards to hang up artwork etc
Mandy O’Brien 48471181

**Re: School Cleaners**
Cleaners required must be able to work a split shift before and after school. Training will be provided. A working with children clearance is required. For further information please contact Mark Green 0418999368.

**JUNIOR GOLF**

A very successful MyGolf program was run at Braidwood Golf Club in January. An opportunity for juniors to develop their skills and further their interest and enjoyment in golf will be offered at Braidwood Golf Club every Wednesday of the current school term. A small charge of $3 per session will apply.

Sessions will commence on Wednesday 18 February starting at 3.30pm and finishing at approximately 5.00pm. Activities will include games to develop skills and play on the course.

Interested parents should contact Rod Coady on 48422829.

We are in need of egg cartons, if you have any spare please drop them in to the front office.
Thank you
Notes from the Counsellor

Good afternoon Parents,
I get many requests from parents asking for advice regarding their children that I decided to write a few notes in the newsletter about issues that might come up regarding parenting and education.

First – who am I? I’m Lesley Adamson, Counsellor and Registered Psychologist. I’ve been a teacher for several years, and have had three children, and two grandchildren. I haven’t been the perfect parent, but does such a one exist? I do know some of the problems and traumas of parenting, and have learnt much from experience, as well as from my training, reading and talking to other parents and friends. I still think it’s the most worthwhile occupation there is. **It’s also the most difficult job in the world!**

One of the main things I’ve learned is that no parent sets out to deliberately harm his/her children. We all wish our children the best, we want them to be happy, responsible, worthwhile people, but there are times when we are just not sure of the best way to handle a situation; sometimes we just want to know how to start. The answer can be to talk with others – friends, relative, and others, even a counsellor – who can put a different perspective on what to do. Outside help is only an acknowledgement of the complexities of the job. Others might not have the answers, but they can give us ideas to consider. Reading is another way to gain information about your children (however the vast number of books and magazines available makes this area one of some confusion).

All I want to do in these notes is to give my perspective on issues that come up, as well as to reassure you, as parents, that we, at Braidwood Central School, know that you are doing your best. The notes will be short, but if anyone wants fully information or discussion, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I’ll also include pieces of information, poems, writings, and so on, that you might find inspirational (that I’ve found inspirational).

I would also like to extend an invitation to you to come and discuss problems as they come up. I’m here for parents as well as children, and will recommend books and programmes that might interest parents of children in today’s rapid social changes.

The first, most important, and briefest, piece of advice I can give is to **spend time with your children.** Get to know them. Do you know his/her favourite colour, piece of music, pizza topping? Do something fun with them. Ask them what they think about what’s happening in the world. Watch their favourite tv program with them, discuss it. Look them in the eye when you talk to them. Do what they want to do. They’ll thank you for it.

More about this later.

I’m more than happy to receive feedback about my notes. Please let this be ongoing and respectful communication.

Lesley Adamson
Your School Counsellor
Braidwood Central School P&C Association
Annual Report for 2014

2014 was a busy year for the P&C. Many different activities and services were run to support the school, from the canteen and uniform shop, to catering for school and community events, as well as providing regular advice and support to the School Executive. It was a year of change for the school, and a year of review for the P&C. We entered the realm of internet banking, reorganised our accounts, reviewed pricing in the canteen and uniform shop, and attempted to streamline our meeting processes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the 2014 Executive for their efforts last year, as well as those members of staff and who regularly attend our meetings and contribute to the functioning of the P&C.

2014 Executive Committee

President  Bidda Jones  Uniform Shop Manager  Linda Lewis
Vice-Presidents  Amanda Flack,  Canteen Manager  Heather Stuart
                Veronica McClure (to 12/2014)
Secretary  Hannie Bott  Canteen Coordinator  Eryn Wood
Treasurer  Denise Rutter  Canteen Treasurer  Simone Lupton (from 12/2014)

Fundraising wrap-up

In mid-2013, the P&C decided to focus its fundraising specifically on buying textbooks to support the roll-out of the national curriculum. We agreed that, once our annual commitments had been covered, all funds raised through the Canteen, P&C catering and other activities would be put towards a $20,000 target for the textbook fund.

The Braidwood Show is one of our regular catering events, bringing in much needed funds and ensuring that there’s a constant supply of food for hungry participants. The P&C runs a barbeque outside the main pavilion and serves hot drinks, cream teas and sandwiches inside. We have people helping out all day or just coming in for an hour or so when it’s busy. It’s a great way to get to know other parents, especially if you’re new to the school. After a rather cool day and slow sales inside over lunch, we made the decision that in 2015 we will no longer serve sandwiches (except for the Stewards and for special orders). This will reduce the workload for our early shift and should ensure that we waste less perishable food.

This year we catered for four musical events held at the school: Peter Pan in April, Braidwood’s Got Talent in August, the Wizard of Oz in September and Carols by Candlelight in December. Our role is to make sure there is plenty of food available during each performance or event. Because of the fantastic efforts of our bakers, our catering costs are minimal, allowing us to return most of our takings to the school. The Carols by Candlelight evening also provided the chance to draw the winners of our Christmas Monster Raffle, with several huge baskets of prizes on offer. We also held two wood raffles earlier in the year thanks to generous contributions of wood from two of our families.

The P&C also organised the venue and catering for this year’s Year 12 Farewell, which was held at Garran Vale. According to feedback it was the ‘best ever’ and also raised a healthy $1800 for the school.

P&C Canteen

For many years, the P&C canteen at BCS has provided a vital service to the school community by opening every school day for recess and lunch and returning its profits back to the school. In 2007-12, the canteen returned a total of $45,000 to support crucial school activities and infrastructure. However, with rising costs of wages and supplies and decreased sales, for the first time in 2013 the P&C canteen made a loss.

In February 2014 the P&C reviewed the canteen accounts and introduced some changes, including reduced running costs and a review of the scope and pricing of the menu. Our discussions revealed how important the Canteen is to the school in ensuring every student has access to low-cost food at lunch and recess every day.

You can contact the P&C via email at bcspondc@gmail.com
without having to leave the school grounds – a service that many other schools have out-sourced or lost. After putting out multiple calls for volunteers, things started to pick up, and by the end of the year had really turned around: sales were up, income was up, and our volunteer roster was looking much healthier. As a thank you to everyone who helped make this happen, Heather and Maureen organised a Christmas party, supported by the P&C, which was a great success.

Each year we need new volunteers to replace those who have moved on, so please make sure to help out if you can. If every parent volunteered just once a year, we would have every shift covered, so please, just lend us a morning of your time – it’s well worth it!

**P&C Uniform Shop**

The P&C Uniform shop continues to provide a valuable service to BCS families. After several years running the shop, Sue Chluney handed over the reins to Linda Lewis at the beginning of the year. As our Uniform Shop Manager, Linda has reviewed the pricing system to ensure that all items are sold above cost price while remaining affordable, with a focus on quality and on items bearing the BCS logo. We hope in 2015 to make it easier to order clothes by uploading order forms via the school website.

**Giving back to the school**

The objective of fundraising is to help provide our school with services or equipment that the government does not provide. In 2014 the P&C worked hard to take up every fund-raising opportunity we could. It was a fantastic achievement and a great credit to our entire school community that we reached our target of $20,000 for the text book fund by the end of the year.

We have already transferred $5,000 to the school towards a range of textbooks, including guided and independent readers for Primary, Maths and Science textbooks for Secondary, with additional books for English, Geography and History planned next. In addition, we also made our regular contribution of $10 per child towards excursions to help broaden the experiences available to our students.

**Other activities**

- P&C representatives provided input into the merit selection process during recruitment of new administration and teaching staff, with representatives on each panel.
- We have administered the school’s Youth Worker position for the past 3 years. In 2014 Amy did a fantastic job supporting our secondary students. Unfortunately, the federal government has now changed the rules of the school chaplaincy program to require all chaplains to be associated with a religious group, meaning we can no longer have a secular Youth Worker.
- We had a presence at the Term 2 Parent-Teacher night and *Braidwood Celebrates!* to provide information about our activities and the benefits of parents engaging with the school.
- We supported staff in making grant applications, such as to the Bendigo Community Bank for renewing the vegetable garden, as well as writing letters of support for other like-minded community groups.

**Looking forward to this year**

Our P&C has a tremendous history of energetic support from the community: we are always looking for more people to get involved. If you’ve never been to a meeting or helped out before, please, make 2015 your year to do so. We’ll be grateful for whatever you can do to spread the load. Speaking of which, it’s not long until the Show comes around again, so please make a note in your diary to volunteer some of your time on Show day to help out. Remember, everything we do goes back to help our students be the best they can be.

Meetings of the P&C are held in the School Library at 7pm on the Wednesday of Week 3 and Week 8 each term. Our first meeting for 2015 will be on Wednesday 11 February. The term of the Executive runs until the 2015 AGM, which will be held on Wednesday 18 March. All positions will be declared vacant: voting is open to all financial members of the P&C.

You can contact the P&C via email at bcspandc@gmail.com