Dear Parents and Community,

Welcome to Week 4! We have had a successful and smooth start to the school year. Kindergarten students are settled and are enjoying being an active part of the K-6 school community. We look forward with enthusiasm as we watch them learn and grow each day.

**Information Afternoon**

On Tuesday 17th February we will be holding a ‘Class Information’ afternoon. The afternoon has been set up to allow parents the opportunity to talk to teachers and stage supervisors about the expectations and learning directions for the year. We look forward to seeing many parents attending the afternoon.

**Parent Meeting**

Communicating and working in partnership with parents and community is a core focus for our school in 2015. The first meeting for 2015 will be held on Thursday 26th February beginning at 1.30pm. The meeting will be held in the Community Room. There will be some important business for us to discuss including:

- Changes to our school timetable
- Major upcoming events for 2015
- Parent dinners and activities throughout the year
- Priority areas for school development in 2015
- School excellence, student excellence and community excellence

I look forward to seeing many parents and community in attendance.

**Parent Help**

We are undertaking a beautification program for the side of our school to make it a warm and welcoming environment for students and visitors. We are seeking parent helpers to help water and plant around the garden over the coming weeks. We are also seeking a community member who may know about paving! If you know of someone please let the office staff know.

**Arriving to School Late**

Arriving to school on time is integral to student learning. It is policy of the Department of Education and Communities that a note explaining late absences be provided. It is policy of the Department that parents/carers provide a justified reason as to why their child is late. The best learning times for students occur in the morning session. Students who begin school after 9am often miss out on core literacy experiences. If there is any way that the school may be able to assist you such as providing early morning courtesy calls please contact the office in the front office. Remember school begins at 9.00am. Should there be patterns of late attendance you will be required to attend a meeting with the Principal and/or Departmental personnel.

This week I would like to leave you with our school motto, which I believe sums up the students, staff and community of our school - **Courage and Determination**.

Regards,

Ms T. Anderson
Class Information Afternoon

When: Tuesday 17th February 3.10—4.30pm
What: Please come and visit your child’s 2015 classroom to find out about the class, teacher and what they want to achieve with your child in 2015!
Where: In classrooms. (If you are not sure where each classroom is, we will have staff available to show you)

Dental Clinic

When: Tuesday 17th—Friday 20th
This week we see the arrival of a state-of-the-art mobile dental clinic to our school. The large clinic from Australian Mobile Dental Care (AMDC) will be here all week giving students free check-ups, fissure sealants, fluoride applications and one-on-one education for those who have completed their consent forms. Parents of those who need further treatment beyond the preventative work will be contacted about their child’s dental needs.

For most children between 2-17 years, this program comes at no cost to parents if their child is eligible for the government funded Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS).

For those who have not returned their consent forms, it is not too late for their child to participate. Please call the school if you still wish for them to receive this fully subsidised dental care program.

Community workshop

When: Wednesday 25th February 2015
Time: 9am start. Meet outside the Community Room.

Let’s Make Briar Beautiful!

We need your help to beautify our school.

Be a part of our valued Gardening Team and help make a difference in your child’s school.

We are seeking volunteers to help with a brand new garden outside the Smith Family Office.

Please bring any shovels and gloves may you have. (Please note if you do not have any equipment we still need your help!)

A note went home last week—if you are interested, please let us know so that we can cater for you.

Kind regards,

Jessica Jones, Jason Sampson, Scherie Munro & Moses Alone

BRPS Community Team

Office Reminders

Please make sure all contact details, particularly phone numbers, are up to date

Swimming Carnival

WHEN: Friday 6th March
Who: Years 2-6

Note coming home soon!

This is a day where all students participate, regardless of their swimming ability!

It is well-run and fun school day.

Mr Garcia
Sports Subsidy 2015

When: notes returned by Thursday 26th February

Once again Briar Road Public School has been provided with a subsidy to assist a small number of families experiencing financial hardship to register their children in a local level sports and recreation team or program.

Notes went home last week and need to be returned no later than Thursday 26th February. For first time recipients the subsidy will cover 70% of the sports registration fees. Students receiving this funding prior to 2015 will still be eligible for the subsidy to cover 55% of registration costs. There are limited funds so please note that your application does not ensure that your child will receive this subsidy.

Any questions, please see the office.

Congratulations Laysharna

Laysharna has made the Zone Basketball side!

Bookclub

Book Club order books will come out twice a term.

All orders to go to Mrs Keierleber.

Scripture

When: start Thursday 26th February (Primary odd weeks / Infants even weeks)

If student has a religion on their enrolment card they will be attending scripture unless a patent/caregiver notifies the school that they do not want their child to attend.

Any child that does not have a religion noted on their card and the parent/ caregiver wishes for them to attend needs to notify the school.

Religious groups are Anglican, Catholic and possibly Muslim. Primary attend scripture on Odd weeks and Infants on Even weeks.

Please see Mrs Keierleber if you need to discuss anything in regards to scripture.

Home reading Helpers

Are you available to help change home readers in classrooms on a Wednesday and a Friday?

Please see Jess Jones or Samantha Rangaiya if you can help.
“Tell Them From Me” student survey

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: [http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents](http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents). The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

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<tr>
<th>Term 1 Diary Dates:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16th—20th: Dental Clinic on school grounds</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17th: Class Information  afternoon 3.10pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 19th: Primary assembly 4/5T</td>
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<td>Friday 20th: Infants assembly 2M</td>
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<td>Wednesday 25th: Community workshop 9am</td>
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<td>Thursday 26th: Parent meeting 1.30 pm (Community room)</td>
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<td>Whole school assembly 2.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<td>Friday 6th: Swimming Carnival Years 2-6</td>
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<td>Monday 9th: Parent Feedback dinner</td>
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<td>Friday 13th: School photos</td>
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<td>Friday 20th: Gala Day Years 3-6</td>
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<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<td>Thursday 2nd: Last day Term 1</td>
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