Dear Parents and Friends,

**Strategic Plan Survey**
Please complete the survey in the following pages and return to the school mail box asap.

**Sausage Sizzle 2015**
Sausage sizzle will continue every Friday. Please place your order each week in a separate envelope (i.e. not with payments for other activities) with full correct payment enclosed. Family orders are acceptable. Please mark on the front of your envelope your child’s name, class and the number of sausage sizzles/drinks required.

Sausage sizzle (one slice of bread $1.50 with a long thin sausage, a choice of either tomato or BBQ sauce) 100% popper juice (various flavours) $1.00 Up’n’Go (various flavours) $1.50 Children select their drink flavours as they are served at lunchtime.

Orders should be placed in the mail box in the office foyer on arrival at school on Friday mornings. Please encourage your child to take on this responsibility themselves.

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**School Photos**
**Next Wednesday, 25 February**
The School Photographer will visit next Wednesday, 25 February. Please swap blue shirts for gold on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week so that everyone is in a gold shirt for Wednesday’s photo. **Sessions commence at 9.00am sharp.**

It is vital for the smooth operation of the pre-payment system adopted by this school that each child returns his/her own envelope, even if the payment is enclosed in a sibling’s envelope. Pre-payment envelopes are attached with full details of available packages. **Please return by the morning of photo day at the latest, earlier, if possible, fully completed with full correct payment enclosed.** No payments are handled by the school.

Cheques should be made payable to “The School Photographer”.

Photographs will be taken but no packages will be issued without full pre-payment. Families (children enrolled at this school only) may choose also to order family portraits at an additional cost. Other options are available as listed on the separate family envelope. These orders need to be submitted in a separate
envelope, available from the office. Please send a note or enquire at the office if you would like a family envelope.

Parents/Caregivers will need to contact The School Photographer directly for any payments made after Wednesday, 25 February.

4-5-6 Camp
There has been a change of date for the Pt Wolstoncroft Camp. We will now be heading for camp on Tuesday 2 – Friday 5 June 2015, the week before originally planned. This was a request from camp and it will work out better for us. The cost will be the same, $295.00 per student. Camp fees can be paid off gradually at the office from next Monday, 23 February. Permission notes etc. will be handed out at a later date and there will be regular meetings and talks for all 4-5-6 students as the time draws closer.
Mrs A

Requests
It’s once again time to ask for donations of boxes of tissues for use in classrooms. A donation of one box of tissues for each student is requested. Kindly send to your child’s class teacher.

School Facebook
The school has a Facebook page. If you would like to be a friend, join us with up to date school information (Black Hill Public School).

Easter Raffle
Yes, it’s that time of year again… Easter Raffle tickets will be sent home attached to next week’s newsletter. Again we ask for donations of Easter chocolate goodies for our prizes, also any baskets you can spare (even those bright coloured boxes or buckets flowers come in would be great). We usually have plenty donated from what people have in the back of their cupboards so shouldn’t need to buy any, save your money to spend on the important part…the chocolate! There will be boxes in the foyer to place chocolates and baskets in.

For the new families …
Every year we run an Easter Raffle fundraiser drawn after our Easter hat parade. Each family will receive two books to sell, however not mandatory, more are also available for those who can sell them. It’s a fairly easy fundraiser for the school raising approximately $1200 last year. Every cent we raise goes to helping create the well resourced school we have for all BHPS children, present and future. We have a prize for the family who sells the most (last year’s winner, the Jackson’s sold 7 books). We also ask each family to make a donation of Easter chocolates i.e. various size eggs, rabbits etc and a few volunteers gather one day and assemble lovely cellophane wrapped baskets for the raffle prizes. Completely optional if you wish to donate and how much you choose to spend. Some spend $2 others spend over $20. The more chocolate we receive, the more prizes we can create, so every little bit helps. Any questions please contact me. Thanks Mel Jennings (McCulloch) 0407662961 (call or text)

Stay and Play
Thanks to all who hung around last Thursday. We will have another Stay and Play later in the term.

P&C News

P&C AGM
The Annual General Meeting of the Black Hill Parents and Citizens Association will be held in the school staff room on Tuesday, 17 March 2015 at 7.00pm. All office bearers for 2015 will be elected. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to vote for office bearers, please ensure you are a paying member of the P&C (annual membership is $5.00 per family. Payment form can be found at the back of the newsletter). The regular monthly P&C meeting will be held immediately afterwards.

Stay and Play
Thanks to all who hung around last Thursday. We will have another Stay and Play later in the term.

Sausage Sizzle
Friday 20 February
Melinda McCulloch, Lisa Donkin, Chris Ferrier
Sizzle $1.50 Poppers $1.00 Up’n’Go $1.50
**Bunnings Sausage Sizzle**

Our first fundraiser of the year is coming up. We have been fortunate enough to get a sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Wallsend on Saturday, 28 March. This is a great opportunity to make some money for school resources, but we need your help to make it happen. Fill out the following slip, indicating what time you can volunteer, then come along for a fun day. For more information, contact Amber Hicks on 0435 864 835.

**Community News**

**Thank You**

A big thank you to the Black Hill Public School community for their generous donations to Benwerrin Rural Fire Brigade. Your kind donations amounted to $436 which will be put to great use either within the station or on the tankers. THANK YOU

Debbie Adamthwaite
Dep. Captain Benwerrin

**Black Hill Educational Trust**

The first round of funding applications is now open. See details below. Application forms are available from the office.

Funds from Donaldson Coal, (now Yancoal) donated for educational purposes over a period from 2008-2014 as part of consent conditions for their underground mine, have been invested on behalf of the Black Hill Public School Educational Trust. Dividends paid each year are to serve the needs of students enrolled at Black Hill Public School (BHPS) for expenses beyond the provision of the Education Department. The total amount of funding rounds will be determined by available dividends.

The distribution of the funds may benefit either individuals or groups enrolled at BHPS and may address social, emotional, cultural, academic, recreational, or artistic needs of the applicants. There is no means testing in the application process, meaning that financial hardship is not required for applications to be considered. Each application is considered on its own merit. Applications may be considered for future funding, or reimbursement for costs already incurred. Applications may be approved for full or partial payment, or rejected. Rejected applications are not subject to appeal, but may be considered again in a subsequent round of applications. Applications are considered, and must be made unanimously, by a panel consisting of the Principal, School Council President, and P&C President of BHPS.

Examples of funding considerations may include (but are not limited to):
- extra curricular fees, equipment, travel or other expenses associated with sporting, dance, drama, music, languages, or art activities—either on a regular basis or a one-off activity;
- tutoring with the aim of improving or extending abilities in curriculum areas;
- participation in cultural learning experiences.

Queries regarding the application process may be directed toward the school Principal.

Whilst applications can be lodged at the school at any time during the year, the trustees will make determinations in two rounds, at the end of term 1 (round 1) and the end of Term 3 (round 2).
We are in the process of developing our strategic plan for 2015-2017. As part of this process we revisit the priorities of Staff, Students and Parents. Could you please complete the survey below to indicate the order in which you see the focus of our school should be. Please number 1 to 7 with 1 being your highest priority.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Focus</th>
<th>Order</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social development, happy, safe school environment</td>
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<td>High academic achievement</td>
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<td>High sporting achievement</td>
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<td>Focus on artistic pursuits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus on leadership and self-development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide a variety of opportunities</td>
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Please return this survey to the school mail box as soon as possible