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 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.


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 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (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 consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

School Hats

The warmer weather is definitely upon us and reminds us of the need to be sun-safe. Bowen has a ‘no hat, play in the shade’ policy so to allow more freedom for your child at break times, please ensure that they wear a hat to school. The official school hats are the preferred option and the surf hat in particular, provides excellent sun protection. Both the surf hat and the baseball style cap are available in the front office for only $10. Now is a great time to make sure your child has a school hat and for $10 the hats are a good investment in your child’s health.
**Ride to School**

Riding to school is a fantastic way for children to be physically active and healthy. We are currently working with the ‘Ride to School’ organisation to establish safe travel routes to Bowen from all parts of our community. If you would like to be involved in creating a positive change for our school, please contact Mr Mac at school. There will be a meeting at 12pm next Thursday (25.2.16) at school for a working party to get started. I hope to see you there.

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**Narrabeen Excursion**

For those parents with children in Years 5 and 6, now is a good time to begin paying off the Narrabeen Excursion which will be held later in the year. Please see Liz or Ellen in the front office to set up a payment schedule.

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**School Photos**

School photos will be taken on March 9 this year so summer uniform will be worn. There is more information to be found in this newsletter, including an opportunity to pay online if you wish.

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**Raiders @ Bowen Public School**

Some of the Canberra Raiders will be visiting Bowen on February 18 at 11:45. They will be talking to students about healthy eating and exercise and about how they can join their local footy team. They might even sign some autographs and answer some questions. If you’re a fan, please feel free to join us.

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**P&C NEWS**

The next meeting will be our, Annual General Meeting, to be held on Monday 7 March 2016. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting; it is a wonderful way to meet other parents and have an input into your child’s education.
Hard Work in Kinder Butterflies & Kinder Bear

Practicing letter formation

1A
My name is Ellen and I will be working with Liz in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Fridays.

I am excited to start at Bowen Public School.

Welcome

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

Want to know how to get your family to eat all the fruit & veg they need to stay healthy?

Think fruit & veg cost too much?

Over the coming weeks we’ll give you tips and ideas that will help you:

- Make healthy meals the whole family will love
- Pack healthy lunch boxes that will get eaten
- Save money by eating more fruit and veg
- Encourage fussy eaters with fun food ideas
- Grow your own fruit & veg without fuss

Got an idea to help us? Get in touch!

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

Nutrition Snippet

Online registrations for the 2016 Netball Winter Competition will open on Monday 15/2 at 3pm, links and registration information will be posted to our Facebook page and Website.

Web: http://cymsnc.nsw.netball.com.au

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CYMS-Netball-Club-Inc-196178600392795/

Email: cymsnetball@y7mail.com
Our school photos will be taken on Wednesday the 9th March 2016.

For the convenience of our school community, school photos can be ordered and paid for online using a secure online platform. Orders placed online DO NOT require an envelope, cash/cheques or paperwork returned to school.

*Envelope Orders:* photos can also be purchased in the traditional manner using an envelope, with cash/cheque enclosed.

The preference of our school is that orders and payments be made online, as this reduces the administration and associated security issues related to the return of cash & envelopes on photo day.

To place your order visit [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) and enter the code- [DE6 EAQ 6NC]. This code can also be found printed on your envelope. Please be aware that-

1. Sibling/Family Photos can be ordered online or via envelope. To ensure a smoothly run photo day, online orders for *Sibling/Family Photos will be cut off at 12.00 a.m. the night before our photo day* to allow a list of students that require Sibling/Family Photographs taken to be compiled. Sibling photos can still be ordered after the online cut off date by collecting an envelope from the office and returning the envelope on photo day with your payment enclosed.
2. All online orders should be placed on or before our day of photography.
3. The online code above may also be used to order sports and other group photos.

All orders placed online will be delivered to the school for collection.

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**VOLUNTEER AWARD – YOUTH & OPEN CATEGORIES**

Sport and Recreation are again holding the **Central West Summer Sport Volunteer Award.** It’s getting close to the end of the Summer sporting season, but it’s not too late to recognise the efforts of the outstanding volunteers who keep sport going in our communities.

The Award has separate categories for Open and Youth (25 years and under) to recognise the importance of all aged volunteers in grassroots sport.

In 150 words or less tell us how your volunteer is worthy of being nominated.

All nominees will receive a certificate, with the winner and runner up being awarded $250 & $100 (respectively) to spend on approved sports development programs.

It’s a great way to say thank you to a coach, committee member, official or manager. It’s a simple process that won’t take long, but will make the nominee feel valued as a volunteer.

Nominations can be made online via the Sport and Recreation website [sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/volunteeraward](http://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/volunteeraward) or call 6362 6623.

Nominations close Friday 1st April 2016.
School Holiday Fun!

MERGE
APRIL 2016

Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 April
Primary Aged Young People

Thursday 21 and Friday 22 April 2016
Secondary Aged Young People

Fun activities include Burrendong Sport and Recreation Camp, Scavenger Hunt and lots more

Register at the HACC Centre
286 Lords Place Orange by FRIDAY 1st April
No late enrolments will be accepted

Contact Katrina on 6393 8966 for further information

Just Brass desires for young people to experience the rich benefits of music, through individual and group learning, irrespective of family, school or community circumstances.

Would you like to learn a brass instrument?

Would you like to play in a band with students from other schools?

Come and try Just Brass.

Instruments: Trumpet/Cornet, Tenor Horn, French Horn, Baritone, Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba and Percussion.

Practice: Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30 at The Salvation Army.

Cost: FREE!

Instruments available. Music provided.

For more information:
Captain David Grounds, Phone 6362 1870, Mobile 0401 133 497,
Email Orange.Cors@au.salvationarmy.org
Megan Hodsdon, Phone 6362 1870, Mobile 0447 663 808,
Email meganhodsdon@rocketmail.com

Participation, Potential, Persistence and Partnership
OUTREACH @ THE CARRIAGE

CARRIAGE COTTAGE
145 SPRING STREET
24 FEBRUARY 2016
10 AM - 2 PM

For more information:
BOWEN COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
Phone: 6362 8584
Email: bowenctc@gmail.com

Looking After Yourself!
It’s important right?
Join us to meet with health professionals to discuss nutrition and how to manage stress and more importantly where to get help!
Afterwards have a catch up and a cuppa with others.

WHO: Parents/Carer of a child with a disability
WHEN: Thursday 3rd March
TIME: 10am-12pm
VENUE: CPA Orange
ADDRESS: 95 Prince Street Orange 2800
COST: FREE
Light refreshments available
RSVP: Sandy Livermore
6360 1455
sandy@cpaorange.org.au
RSVP to Sandy ASAP!
Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your school is taking part in the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students 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 them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

Rob McPherson  
Principal  
Bowen Public School  
Evaluation

Dr Jenny Donovan  
Executive Director  
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

CESE@DET.NSW.EDU.AU   WWW.CESE.NSW.GOV.AU
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 26 February.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s ………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Roll class/es ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Name of parent/carer ……………………………………………………………………………………………

Signature of parent/carer ……………………………………………………………………………………………

Date ………………………………. 