We are past the halfway mark of Term One already. Our Kindergarten children are well established in their routines and all classes are running well.

Week 5 was our assessment week. We are now as a staff compiling the results and finishing off any children that were away and missed assessments. Early next week you will receive a health check report. This is a very short report on how your child has started the year and an opportunity to just let you know if we have any area’s identified as needing assistance. All Kindergarten children were assessed using what is called “Best Start”. It is a national assessment of all children and gives an indication of where they were up to upon entering school. As the data was taken in the first few days, we expect there has been progress made already. This report will be sent home as the Kindergarten Health Check. If a teacher has requested an interview for any reason, please contact the school office or send an email to arrange a time that suits.

**North West Swimming**

On Monday a group of 12 swimmers from BJPS represented the region in Swimming. It was a fantastic day, with all our students performing to their best. Congratulations to all the children on representing both our school and the district so well.

We have had 5 children make it on to State. Congratulations to Sarah Smith 8yrs Freestyle, Hamish Chappel 12 yrs Freestyle, Sophie Sendall Junior Breastroke, Junior IM and our P5 relay team of Hamish and Campbell Chappel, Sophie Sendall and Stella Carolan.

**Tell Them From Me**

Attached to this newsletter is information about a survey called *Tell Them From Me*. It will provide us with information about what our students, teachers and parents think about many aspects of our school. Term One and Three students are surveyed. Teachers and Parents are surveyed in Term Three. Please read the information attached and fill in the note if you DO NOT wish for your child to participate.

**Julie Fawcett and Moorambilla**

Last year our school was successful in gaining a grant from Monsanto. We are using this to broaden our children’s experiences in Creative and Performing arts. Julie Fawcett will be in our school next Monday 14th March to work with all children on their singing skills. Julie will be teaching children 2 songs to perform in the Narrabri Eisteddfod and ANZAC day. She will return again on Wednesday 6th April to work with the students again.

Moorambilla Voices is an opportunity for our year 3-6 children to participate in a skills development workshop. This would complement our singing program well. An email was sent out Monday with information about this. Please let us know by Friday if your child will be attending Baradine on March 22nd.
**Cricket Knockout**
Monday 29th February our Burren Junction cricket team took on Wee Waa in the knockout competition. Our team performed well and can all be pleased with their effort. Unfortunately, Wee Waa was the stronger team on the day. A big thanks to Brett for training the team and to all the parents who assisted on the day.

**Sentral**
All staff have undertaken some more training in Sentral. I worked with Ian McLaughlin yesterday to set up our report format for our Semester One Reports. As teacher’s complete assessment tasks, marks are entered into Sentral and used to feed data into our reports. We are learning more and more about this system all the time. It is a great way to keep information and achievements of all children in one location.

**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)**
Attached to this newsletter is the parent information letter for the 2015 ICAS exams. These exams are available to children in Years 2-6. Please express your interest on the attached form and Jenny will be in touch to let you know how much they will be. Please don’t send any money until she sends you an invoice.

**PSSA Sport Trials**
Throughout the year trials for team sport are available for the senior children. This is a selection process to select a representative team for the district. The dates of the trials are on the school website calendar. You will need to inform the school 2 weeks prior if your child would like to compete at this level. This is for children already playing their sport at weekends who are competent players and have a good knowledge of the rules.

**4-6 Excursion**
Just a reminder that at 3.30pm tomorrow we will be having a meeting to discuss the proposed excursion to Canberra and the snow. It would be ideal if each family could be represented. The meeting will take place in the 5-6 classroom.

This Friday at assembly Yrs 1 and 2 will be performing a poem about dinosaurs for your entertainment.

Have a great week,
Mrs Slack-Smith

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**Pink Stumps Day in BJ, Friday 26th Feb, 2016**

Although the thermometer did hit 41 degrees on Friday 26th February, that didn’t stop students, teachers, parents and carers from Burren Junction, Rowena, Pilliga and Gwabegar primary schools enjoying Pink Stumps Day at Burren Junction. For the third consecutive year, a day of pink fun in aid of the McGrath Foundation was hosted by Burren Junction Public School at the town oval. For the first time Pilliga and Gwabegar schools attended which swelled the numbers to almost 100. Jake Packer and Chelsie Hancock from Narrabri, representing Cricket NSW bought out the milo blast cricket gear and mixed teams were formed to ensure games of cricketing fun were had with both children and adults in on the action. During the breaks, the Burren Junction P&C sold cakes and drinks as well as a BBQ lunch with all proceeds going to the McGrath Foundation. Pink Stumps Day merchandise and some other donated items were sold and raffled for the cause. Online donations, including a generous $800 from Namoi Cotton Co-operative added to the overall tally of $2,830. This is another fantastic result from a small community which will help the McGrath Foundation continue to provide essential Breast Care nurses in areas where they are most needed. Thank you to everyone involved.