From the Principal

Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members;

“Happiness keeps you sweet, trials keep you strong, sorrows keep you human, failures keep you humble, success keeps you glowing, friends and family keep you going.” – Anonymous.

What a wonderful start to the 2017 school year; it has been lovely to welcome our new students along with their families as well as welcoming back students and families from last year. Our staff have done a fantastic job getting our school off to a positive and productive start. It is vital that we maintain a co-operative relationship between students, staff and parents so that the team that educate your children are working positively and productively with you - the teaching team at home.

We have also welcomed our new staff for 2017 including - Mrs Kerri Hancock (Guidance Officer), Ms Tracy Jenkins (Learning Support), Miss Lydia Wullems (SEP) and Miss Stefanie Whittaker (Music). Mrs Sarah Cobb is the new HOD Literacy who works across all Blackwater Schools to support our Writing Explicit Improvement Agenda focus. Mr Thomas Brayford will be our new Japanese Teacher, based at Blackwater State High School.

School Uniforms – It was very pleasing to see our students return to school in the full school uniform from day 1. As our School Prospectus reminds us, to adopt a uniform policy is one thing; to have it worn correctly requires the co-operation of parents. This year is the last year where students are allowed to wear our old uniforms and the P&C are working with us as we transition to the compulsory worn correctly requires the co-operation of parents. This year is the last year where students are allowed to wear our old uniforms and the P&C are working with us as we transition to the compulsory use of the new uniforms by the beginning of next year. We thank parents for their continued support in this area and request that only approved uniforms supplied via the P&C continue to be worn, i.e. uniforms can only be purchased new from the uniform shop at school.

Every day counts, are your children at school? – Parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every day. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year. Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year. For more information visit the Every Day Counts webpage at http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html. Please keep in mind our absence text messaging system will send you a message to explain an absence if you have not already contacted the school to advise why your children are absent.

Thank you for the great attendance at our first P&C Meeting on Tuesday. Our Executive continues to do a fantastic job to support the school and we thank them for their ongoing support and efforts. We are excited by the news of our Tuckshop reopening and look forward to working with the tuckshop staff and volunteers throughout the year. The next P&C Meeting will take place on Monday 20th February at 7pm in the staff room at school. P&C are looking at a rotation between early and late meetings throughout this year to help get as many interested parents along to meetings. We look forward to your participation at upcoming meetings and remind parents’ agenda items can be forward-ed to myself to bring up at meetings even if you can’t attend.

We are looking forward to another fantastic year as we work together to help your children reach their full potential. Blackwater North SS regularly celebrates the successes of our students and welcomes parents to be part of school life. We invite you to attend our weekly Parade each Friday morning from 9am and encourage you to keep in regular contact with your children’s teachers.

Cheers
Rod Wood
Principal

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
**Parent Information Sessions**

At Blackwater North State School, we strive to ensure every child is achieving to their highest potential. Please ensure you take the time to meet your child’s teacher and develop a positive relationship with him/her. This will only enhance your child’s learning journey. Parent information sessions will be held for each year level either this week or next week. This is an opportunity for you to become informed about the daily routines and expectations of the classroom. Be on the lookout for invitations coming home shortly advertising the parent information sessions.

If you do have any concerns about what is happening in your child’s classroom, please speak to the class teacher first. If this does not provide a satisfactory solution, please make an appointment to see the Principal or Deputy Principal.

**Parade**

Parade will continue to be held each Friday morning at 9 am in the School Hall. Parents are most welcome to attend our celebration of student achievements. In the next few weeks, our School Leaders will take over the presentation of Parade. Class performances on parade will not commence until later in the year.

**No Hat, No Play**

It is an expectation that all children will wear their hat outside the classroom. This includes eating time and walking to and from school. If children do not have a hat, they will be required to sit on the blue seats at lunchtimes and are not allowed to play. Any wide brimmed hat or bucket hat is acceptable. It does not have to be a school hat. Caps are not suitable for school wear.

Many parents ask if we are a nut-free school or must children have healthy lunches. We are not able to tell parents what you must put in your child’s lunchbox, however we are obliged to follow the Smart Choices Policy whenever the school provides food to students.

The following information has been taken directly from page 4 of the Smart Choices: Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for QLD Schools.

The **Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for Queensland Schools is all about offering healthy food and drink choices to students in Queensland Schools.**

School food and drink supply includes all situations where food is supplied in the school environment- tuckshops, vending machines, school excursions, school camps, fundraising, classroom rewards, school events such as celebrations and sporting days and food used in curriculum activities.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN A NUTSHELL?**

Whenever we have a food related event at school such as cooking lessons, providing food at a carnival, class party, fete or school excursion we need to consider the nutritional value of the food. Food and drinks have been divided into 3 categories: red, green and amber.

We are allowed to provide red foods on limited occasions. Schools are restricted to holding 2 red food day events per term. Some of our Red Day events are: School Fete, School Camp (we often give a Freddie Frog to the group with the cleanest cabin/ tent each day) and other P & C fundraising events.

Teachers are not able to offer lollies as class rewards. They are able to hold regular cooking lessons using healthy foods but treats can only be cooked on special occasions such as Easter or ANZAC day.

If parents choose to bring in birthday cupcakes or birthday ice blocks, you are still able to.

Introducing our ‘Word Wall’. Each week lower and upper primary will be introduced to a new word of the week. Teachers will be talking about the word during class time and the meaning of that word.

We want to get the kids excited about words and their meanings. Ask your child about the word of the week.

**SMART CHOICES**

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Welcome back to a new year in the library. We have seen many friendly faces popping into the library this week to help their new teacher choose books for their classroom library. Lots of children have also enjoyed a break from the heat at lunchtime, visiting the library to play with the games, computers, blocks and puzzles in the wonderful air conditioned environment. It has been great to see some new Year 1 faces joining us in the library at lunch for the first time.

Class borrowing will begin in Week 3. Students from Prep to Year Six will visit the library weekly to borrow books to take home with them. Each student requires a library bag (preferably waterproof) to keep the library books safe when taking them home. Any students with unreturned loans from 2016 will need to return them before they will be able to borrow. Please see the library staff if you need to discuss any issues relating to unreturned books.

Watch out for our first Book Club of the year! All sales benefit our school as we receive bonus coupons to redeem on a great range of books and other resources. You may be interested in helping out with activities such as covering, shelving books and helping out at Book Fairs. You are most welcome to contact the library to find out more.

In Week 5 of this term we will be hosting a Book Fair. This is a great opportunity for students and families to see what new and exciting books are available. More information about this will be put out in the following weeks.

**Miss Bruce’s Brain Teaser**

What has hands but cannot clap?

Answer revealed next newsletter

Happy Reading

See you @ the library

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**School Banking Day is FRIDAY!**

Our Preppies have been given an information pack from the Commonwealth Bank. If you would like your child to begin school banking please follow the link contained in the info pack. Information packs are available at the office for all students at school who wish to participate.
A Big Blackwater North Welcome to:

Stefanie Whittaker – Music Teacher

Where did you come from? Where have you been?
I was born in Brisbane and grew up in a little country town called Laidley. In my early 20s I lived in the States for a few years to nanny for a family that had 10 children who were homeschooled. I also studied dance at the local community college in Vegas when I was there. I have moved all over Queensland to teach in various regions including Alpha, Toowoomba and Roma.

Teaching highlight to date:
The most exciting part of my career thus far would be when I got to co-direct and choreograph the High school musical in Toowoomba called Godspell.

Best thing about Blackwater:
The people and friendly atmosphere.

Tracy Jenkins—Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy (STLAN)

Where did you come from? Where have you been?
Born in New Zealand and moved to Australia when I was 7. Returned back to NZ as a teenager and left high school at 16. As an adult I studied at the Christchurch College of Education. Have a 25 year old daughter in New Zealand currently attending Canterbury University. Although Primary trained I have worked across the education sector in Early Childhood, Primary, and Secondary and have worked in New Zealand, South Korea and Australia. I moved back to Aussie in 2013 and have worked primarily in the Secondary Sector with disengaged youth.

My passion lies around support young people in their chosen pursuit whatever that maybe. I have a great love for animals – my two dogs are like my children (just ask my daughter) and I spend as much down time as I can with them. I love reading and watching movies as well as caring for my large variety of house plants and on occasion cooking!

Teaching highlight to date:
There have been many highlights in my almost 20 year career in Education, but more recently I have gained much personal and professional satisfaction advocating and supporting young people who have had a difficult and challenging time. I believe that the fundamental skills of Numeracy and Literacy are the building blocks to success for all.

Best thing about Blackwater:
I have only been in Blackwater for just over a week and I look forward to exploring the town and surrounding areas. The best thing about Blackwater so far is the amazingly kind, supportive and considerate people I have met.

Available at the Office to complete your book-list:

Whiteboard markers $13.20 (box of 12)
Library bags $8.50

Tuckshop is opening next Monday 6 February!!!

Interim Menu
Cash sales permitted

Sandwiches

- Ham $3.00
- Ham & cheese $3.50
- Chicken $3.50
- Salad-lettuce, tomato, beetroot, carrot, cucumber, cheese $3.50
- Salad w/ ham or chicken $4.00

Extras—cheese, avocado $0.50
Choice of bread—white, wholemeal OR roll OR wrap
Toasting is a free option

Other

- Pie/sausage roll (Amber) $2.50
- Quiche-bacon & cheese $2.00
- Pizza scrolls (2 pack)
  - Hawaiian $2.00
  - Cheese & garlic $2.00
- Banana muffins $2.00
- Cheese & crackers (8 pack) $2.50
- Popcorn (lightly salted) $1.00
- Salad bowl $4.50
  - with ham or chicken $5.00
- Fresh fruit/fruit salad/fruit skewers made fresh in canteen $2.50
  (grapes, watermelon, apples, pear)
- Jaffles $2.50
  - cheese
  - spaghetti
- Hard-boiled egg $0.50

Drinks (Amber)

- Milk w/ flavour straw 150ml $2.50*
- Milk w/ flavour straw 300ml $3.00*
- Popper 250ml
  - apple
  - orange
  - tropical

*Will supply flavoured milk once straws run out
BLACKWATER SCOUT GROUP
Girls & Boys of all ages most welcome

JOEY SCOUTS Age 6—8 years
Monday Nights 4—5pm

CUB SCOUTS Age 8—11 years
Monday Nights 5.30—7 pm

SCOUTS Age 11—15 years
Tuesday Nights 5—7 pm

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