Explicit Improvement Agenda Writing

Each school in the Central Queensland region has an Explicit Improvement Agenda, our school has an Explicit Improvement Agenda on many items (maybe too many) but one of our major focuses is writing. Through the BMA Literacy for Schools Project, we have been fortunate enough to have Abby Green working across the three schools on writing.

At present we are using data to inform our teaching and learning. When students sit NAPLAN in years 3 and 5, writing is marked on the following criteria: Punctuation, Paragraphing, Ideas, Spelling, Sentence Structure, Vocabulary, Text Structure, Cohesion and Audience. Each one of these criteria are given a particular amount of points.

Our improvement agenda is to focus on one of these criteria for 5 weeks and have all students make improvement, then collect data to show this. At present this criteria is punctuation.

This diagram below shows the process we use to identify the needs of students and how this guides our teaching and learning through the use of data.

Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to our team who competed at the Queensland Primary All Schools Touch Carnival in Brisbane last weekend. They were runners up in their division and competed admirably, only just missing out on first place. A very big thank you to Eric and Taria Smyth for all your efforts in organising and getting our team ready for this event. Refer to Page 3 for Mr Smyth’s report and some pictures of our touch football stars.

The U13 Girls team celebrated success at the recent Western 7s Rugby Union Tournament by taking out their division in the Viva 7s. This is a specially modified division for girls only. Congratulations girls!

I also wish to congratulate one of our year 6 students, Jada Broderick for her selection in the Indigenous Queensland Netball Team. Jada will be travelling to the Gold Coast with this team in mid-January. All the Best Jada!

Until next week, Damien

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
Swimming Carnival
The swimming carnival is planned for Tuesday 1 December. This carnival involves all students in years 3–6. The carnival will commence at Blackwater Pool at 9 am. Students will be required to make their own way to the pool. Parents are most welcome to attend. The P&C has again offered to pay admission to the pool for our students however parents will be required to pay as they arrive. Children will need to take lunch or may buy lunch from the canteen at the pool.
A reminder that the P&C are purchasing a swimming cap for all participants. If you have not returned the note sent home recently then you are encouraged to do so at your earliest convenience - or please contact the office.

Year 6 Transition Days
Wednesday afternoon transition will continue 18 and 25 November 1:30-3pm. A full day of transition will take place on Wednesday 2 December 9am-3pm. Students will need to make their own way to and from the high school on this day. Students are required to wear the Blackwater North State School uniform.

Year 6 Graduation
This event will be held Thursday 3 December at 5:30pm in the Hall. Presentations will commence at 6pm.
Light refreshments will be served.
The cost to parents is $10 each and the students are free. Dress code is smart/casual. Parents are welcome to take photographs if they wish. An invitation will be sent home next week.

Carols By Candlelight
This culminating event on the school’s calendar has been scheduled for Wednesday 9 December in the grounds outside the Hall, weather permitting.
Stay tuned for start time.

Help Needed
To run a successful Book Fair, we need parent helpers each morning and afternoon. This involves collecting money from students and parents as they purchase their items. If you could help for just one morning or afternoon it would be greatly appreciated. Please see Mrs Kronk in the Library if you are able to help.

Library Bags
We have noticed more and more students coming into the Library without a library bag. It is very important that books are borrowed in a library bag and also returned in a library bag.

Our second book fair for the year will be held next week. Books make fantastic Christmas presents, so come into the library and check out all the new books and old favourites on display. The Book Fair will be open each morning next week before school and until 4pm after school each afternoon.

Student Council News
WOW!
The student council has been very busy this term and has supported a number of charities.
Thank you to everyone who supported Student Council’s collection of goods for Operation Christmas Child. Through your generosity, Student Council managed to collect enough goods to fill 69 shoeboxes of goodies for children in need.
Thank you everyone!

Bandana Day was a big success and through your support, Student Council raised $960 for the organisation CanTeen. CanTeen supports young people living with cancer and Bandana Day is a major fundraiser for this cause.

Student councillors have worked hard this year and helped to make a positive difference in our community. Your Student Council has appreciated your efforts and we look forward to your future support.

SCHOOL DENTAL VAN
0408 770 872
Despite sending home two referral letters this year for the School Dentist there are still a lot of children who have not been assessed. Michael, our very friendly School Dentist, recommends not waiting for a problem to develop with your child’s teeth before seeking treatment. If you wish for your child to receive a free assessment of their dental health please collect a referral form from the office or call Michael direct on the above number.

Our triumphant U13 Girls after securing first place in the inaugural Viva 7s division of the recent Western 7s Rugby Union Tournament.
Congratulations to all involved, and again, thank you Mr and Mrs Smyth!! Your dedication to our young sportspersons has resulted in many rewarding successes.
Blackwater North Touch Football players travelled to Redlands Touch Football grounds last Friday to contest the QLD Primary All Schools tournament for 2015.

Players and parents left Blackwater in the wee hours of the morning for the 10 hour car trip. First order of business was a 3pm training run at the fields to run the tiredness out of the legs, followed by a team dinner later that evening. All players in great spirits, we knew we were going to have a great competition.

First game Saturday morning was 8am, and it was already nearly 30 degrees! Our players looked right at home in the heat, taking out the first game 6-0 against Thornlands. Similar results followed, with an 8-1 win over Mt Gravatt East and a 5-2 win over Oxenford SS. We knew our last pool game would be the toughest and the team put in their best performance of the day to take a clinical 7-1 win and top spot of our group.

Sunday was a stark contrast to Saturday. We arrived at the fields greeted with heavy rain and no sun to be seen. We played St Thomas More’s, and for the first time in the tournament, were on the back foot. Down 2-1 at halftime, we clawed one try back in the second half and the game went into drop off (extra time). We forced a turnover through strong defensive work, then got the ball down the other end and scored.

Quarter Final against Cleveland SS ended up a tight 3-2 score line but we never looked in doubt as our players dominated the game.

Semi Final was against Glenvale SS - going into half time with a 1-1 score line. Players were urged to take the ball forward harder. First set after half we took the ball from our 5m line and scored. We didn’t take a backward step the second half and took out the game 5-1.

Our Grand Final was against Pacific Pines SS from the Gold Coast. This school is nearly triple our size with 1100 students. We knew we were going to have our work cut out for us. Into the half time break at 2-2, we quickly conceded 2 more to be down 4-2. Our players were able to hold enough composure and get 2 tries back through set piece moves. Although it wasn’t to be as they scored another one then held on to their 5-4 lead.

Congratulations to all our players, who showed excellent sportsmanship all tournament and thanks to all parents who made the trip and supported the players.
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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