Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome Back to Term 2

This term is 11 weeks long, but is filled with lots of events again. It is shaping up to be very busy. We have NAPLAN occurring in Week 5, lots of sporting events for Duaringa District and Central Highland Trials, report cards, parent teacher interviews, an excursion for year 3, plus our busy curriculum of teaching and learning and three public holidays - ANZAC Day, May Day and Show Holiday. I look forward to working with you all this term.

Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to Gregory McAuliffe. He has just been selected as a member of the 2016 Australian Team to travel to the United States to IJGA World Starts of Junior Golf. We wish you all the best Gregory!

NAPLAN

In week 5 students in years 3 and 5 will be sitting NAPLAN assessments. Any parents not wanting their children to sit NAPLAN will need to see me and we can fill out an exemption form. Please make this a priority in the next two weeks as this exemption has a due date.

Junior Sports Carnival

Last term we cancelled the Junior Athletics carnival due to rain, so Mr Smyth has scheduled this for Tuesday 26th April starting at 9am and finishing at 1pm.

Until next time, Damien

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
Term 2 is shaping up to be very busy. Many events and public holidays occur throughout this term.

In classrooms this week, children are focused and getting straight back into learning, which is great to see. Teachers are very mindful of the workload required by students and are adjusting units to cater for the school events that occur this term. Parent teacher interviews are occurring this week and next. This is a great chance to catch up with the class teacher to discuss your child’s progress and any concerns the children may be experiencing. Please consider taking this opportunity if you have not previously booked an interview. All of the teachers are keen to work in partnership with you to ensure your child receives the best education.

During the holidays, the remaining classrooms were installed with Promethean whiteboards ensuring the latest technology in now available for all class teachers to enjoy.

Religion

Religious Education classes commence this term for Years 1–6. Children will only attend Religion if parent permission has been granted. If you would like your child to attend Religion and have not returned the form then it is essential that you contact the office as soon as possible. The number of classes in each year level is determined by the number of children participating and we would like to have these classes set without too many changes.

ANZAC Service

On Friday 22 April our normal school parade will not be held. Instead, we will have an ANZAC service on the front lawn. Parents are most welcome to attend this service. The children will have the honour of listening to a guest speaker and the Australian and New Zealand national anthems will be sung.

Students are welcome to participate in the Town March on ANZAC day. Students can meet at the scout hut grounds, usually around 9am. This time will be confirmed closer to the day. Some teachers will be in attendance to march with the children. Children are encouraged to wear their school uniform for the march.

Yumi Deadly Maths Training

Next week several of our teachers will be attending Yumi Deadly Maths training at Blackwater High School. This training is ensuring our teachers are skilled in the most effective pedagogy of mathematics allowing us to deliver high quality maths lessons across every year level.

On 11th March in 2011, Japan experienced the biggest earthquake ever recorded in their history. This earthquake triggered a very powerful tsunami which washed away many houses and took the lives of more than 15,000 people.

In Central Highlands, we have a sister city in Japan called Ichinoseki. It is located in Iwate prefecture in Tohoku region which was the area most affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Luckily there was no one injured in Ichinoseki but they had no power, phones, fuel and food for many days. The kite flying event started in 2012. This is a simultaneous event between Blackwater and Ichinoseki. CHRC’s youth development officer Joshua Clutterbuck and I worked together to organise kites from Japan. During our Japanese lesson time students decorated the kites by writing messages in Japanese and drawing popular Japanese anime characters.

Students loved flying their colourful kites under the beautiful sky. It was great to see the community showing their support for further recovery after the earthquake. Also, my appreciation goes to the chaplaincy who kindly donated their time to organise a sausage sizzle for the day.

Library News

Term 2 has started with a bang in the library! We have been dissecting parts of our ANZAC Day Display and have been reading some very touching books commemorating this day as part of our Australian history. It has been wonderful to see students so engrossed in these amazing books. Students have also been enjoying making poppies during lunchtime activities which have made a great addition to our displays. With no borrowing taking place in the library over the holidays there will be no best borrower announcements this week.

Read With Me Club – Home Reading Logs

Rolling out this week and next, will be our new school-wide reading logs. The days of doubling up, recording home reading and completing Read With Me Club sheets are gone. The coloured Read With Me Club sheets have been replaced with a new universal, school-wide reading log. This sheet is a product of an amalgamation between the Read With Me Club sheets and the current home reading system teachers were using.

A purple reading ticket has been introduced and will be used to reward students for each night of completed reading. A prize draw of these tickets will take place weekly on parade.

More details are included in an information sheet which will accompany the first of your child’s reading logs.

I look forward to seeing many tickets in the upcoming draw!

Thanks for your anticipated support.

Happy Reading, Library Staff
Did you know your child can get Microsoft Office 2016 free of charge, just for being a student at Blackwater North State School? All you need is your child’s school email address to sign in.

To help prepare your child for success this academic year, the Department of Education and Training has teamed up with Microsoft to provide free Office 2016 to every Queensland state school student. With Office 2016, your child will have access to the latest version of Word for writing, Excel for spreadsheets, PowerPoint for presentations, OneNote for organisation and notetaking, and much more.

You can install a complete version of the latest Microsoft Office on up to five compatible PCs and Macs, five tablets and five smart phones. Your Office subscription lasts for as long as your child is a state school student.

Ask your child to follow these simple steps to get Office:
- For PC and Mac, visit portal.office.com, login using your school email address, click through to install and follow the onscreen process.
- For tablets and smartphones, download from your app store and sign in with your school email address.


The University of New South Wales will be holding competitions again this year. Dates for these competitions are as follows:
Science: 31 May
Mathematics: 2 August
Writing: 13-17 June
Spelling: 15 June
English: 2 August
Maths: 16 August

The competitions above are open to students in years 3 to 6. Year 2 students are able to participate in Maths, Science and English only. If you would like your child to participate in any of these competitions, please fill out the form below and return it with your money to the office by Wednesday 27 April.

If nominations are not received by this date, students will not be able to participate. Please note, if fewer than three nominations are received in any subject, that category will not proceed.

<table>
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<th>COMPETITION</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>CHILD’S NAME/S</th>
<th>YEAR LEVEL/S</th>
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<td>English</td>
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</tbody>
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Signed:..............................................................................................................

Amount enclosed:.............................................................................
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

Ph: 0437339084 (Pengana) 0403137309 (Mysa)

St Stephens Anglican Church
15 Taurus Street, Blackwater
All are welcome to join us for:
Sunday Morning Service: 9.30am
   (includes children’s ministry)
Bible Study: Tuesday 7pm
E: ststephensblackwater@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/St Stephens Anglican Church

Mineworkers Club  BLACKWATER
Open 7 Days
Bistro Open for Lunch & Dinner

Your Club
Last session
• Kids Outdoor Play area
• Gaming Lounge
• KENO
• TAB
• A.T.M. & Eftpos Facilities

45 Arthur Street
Blackwater

Phone: 49825590
Fax: 49827474