Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome Back for Term 4
I hope everyone had a relaxing break and had the opportunity to recharge the batteries as term 4 seems to not only pass quickly but also has a lot in it. I would like to welcome back Sara Whittington as Deputy Principal for Term 4. I know Sara has noticed the positive changes and positive atmosphere here at Blackwater North since her return.

Departures for 2016
As you may be aware, this time of the year is when I am looking at staffing and classes for 2016. I realise the uncertainty currently occurring in our Blackwater Community and would just ask that if you are leaving us at the end of the year, could you please make a phone call to the office to inform Administration. Thank you in advance.

Ready Set Prep 2016
We are still taking enrolments at the office. This term we are conducting interviews in Weeks 2 and 3. Please ring to book your appointment. Also transition days began this week with the Kindergarten students. Please remember if your child does not attend kindy at one of the centres please contact the school and we can arrange for your child to attend these transition days.

Resilience Youth Australia Survey
Last term I had the opportunity to involve our students in years 3-6 in partaking in a wellbeing and resilience survey. I believe this is an important and valuable opportunity for our students. The survey was sent to me yesterday and will be completed by our year 3-6 students over the next few weeks.

I believe it is important for our future generation to express their opinions through a survey especially when it involves their wellbeing. The purpose of this survey is to help the school make sure that all students are safe, happy and fulfilled. All students in years 3-6 will be told the following from their teacher:

● Your answers will be kept strictly confidential.
● You will note when you login that there is no student number or identification – this means that your answers cannot be tracked and you can answer honestly with confidence.
● Your school will receive a report that combines grouped answers only.
● This is not a test and there are no wrong answers.
● You are being asked to tell about yourself, your experiences and your feelings.
● Please read each question carefully and be as honest as you can.
● If you don’t understand a question, you may ask the teacher.
● If any of the survey questions bring up issues for you, please talk to a teacher or staff member of your choice in the first instance.
● If you wish to withdraw from the survey you may do so and there is no disadvantage in doing so.

Until next week
Damien

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
Thanks for the warm welcome I have received from students, parents and staff on my return to Blackwater North State School. This term is shaping up to be a very busy term and final preparations are currently being made for Year 5 camp, Year 6 camp and the High School Transition. Information letters will be sent home in the very near future.

**Breaka Beach to Bush**

Tomorrow the children will receive a free presentation on Beach Safety and Surf Lifesaving. This is an excellent programme quite relevant to our students as many of them travel to the coast for holidays.

**Behaviour of the Week**
The “You Can Do It” focus for this term is **Persistence**. All teachers will be discussing persistence during this term. During Week 2 the focus is on accepting consequences and in Week 3 the focus will be on active listening.

**Persistence means trying hard and not giving up when the going gets tough.**

**Our Attendance Statistics**

Our attendance average for this year up to today is **91.3%**.

Friday is the day of lowest attendance across the whole year. This means that on average across the whole year we have fewer students attending on Fridays than any other school day.

Week 1 of Term 4’s attendance award went to 3A with **92.16%**.

Our target this year is to reach **92.2%** and have all classes as ‘Every Day Counts’ Champions. Every minute of every hour of every session of every day of learning.

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**LIBRARY**

This term, we have committed to participating in a program called ‘Operation Christmas Child’. The program aims to send Christmas presents to children less fortunate than us. The children who receive these boxes are often affected by war, poverty or natural disasters. Items to include in the box could be clothes, toiletries, toys or crafts. These boxes may be the only present some children receive this Christmas, so all donations are appreciated. Items or monetary donations can be dropped off to all classrooms.

**LIBRARY LESSONS**

This term, Mrs Kronk is working with the year 3-6 students and they will be learning research skills and how to find books in the library. Last week they looked at Reference books and Encyclopedias. Mrs Kronk was surprised by how few students knew what an encyclopedia was.

**NEW BOOKS**

We have added many new books to our shelves in the last week. This year, we bought some new graphic novels which have been very popular and they are being borrowed as soon as they hit the shelves.

**BOOK FAIR**

This term we will hold our second book fair for the year in week 7. This is one of the most exciting times in the library as there are so many great books and stationery items available to purchase.

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**TUCKSHOP**

Tuckshop is in short supply of helpers! If you can spare a morning or two it would be greatly appreciated.

**Changes to Meal Deals this term**

- Monday - Chicken Burger
- Wednesday - Fried Rice

**2A NEWS**

Following a very successful planting and growing of our Sunflowers last term, Year 2A have gone the full cycle and have more seeds to plant. In Science we are learning new ideas about ‘Saving Planet Earth’ which is the main theme of our Science. We have been discussing how to recycle and also about the water cycle. Please look out for posters in our school about how to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

The weather plays an important part in our class life and we have a roster to present the weather each morning. We have just started a Weather Graph in Maths and it ties in with our Chance and Data that we are discovering.

In literacy we are studying narratives and learning about the Orientation (beginning), Complication (middle) and Resolution (end) of a story. Our challenge is to change the complication to our own idea but still keep the original orientation and resolution of the storyline. We’ve already got some great ideas.
Students of the Week ~ 9 October

On the last day of term 40 girls from Duaringa, Bluff, Blackwater and Blackwater North State School gathered together with the Girl Life team to celebrate the completion of this year’s program.

We feasted on a delicious 3 course meal, watched our girl life journey on PowerPoint, played Girl Life pass the parcel and the “My Life” quiz game, and had our final ticket draw for our Girl Life Top 10 prize of a hair straightener, which was won by Greer Webley. A special vote of thanks goes out to Jags Restaurant who always host this function and endeavour to make it special for the girls.

Presentation of the girl’s certificate, photos, an overview of the girls feedback on the program and a section of this year’s PowerPoint will be shown on parade this Friday.

Some of the girl’s reflections on the program –

Girl Life has helped me to know what to do when people are mean to me
I learnt to have the correct privacy settings on social media and to not accept people I don’t know
Girl Life helped prepare me for High school. I have the bands to look at and that reminds me how to think and act
Girl Life helped me get along with my sister and my parents – it boosted my confidence
Girl Life has taught me to be respectful to my parents
Girl Life has helped me not to feel down about myself
The pay it forward tree card enables me to say thanks to the people that I love
I don’t think high school will be so scary now I’ve done Girl Life

The Graduation luncheon was amazing!

Student of the Month – 9 October

GIRL LIFE

CURRICULUM CORNER

Swimming has begun this week. A great conversation to have with your child/ren are the safety aspect, being healthy and building independence as they prepare for classes each week. We are excited our years 1 to 6 are participating for this 6 week period. Thanks for your support. Our classes continue to be busy with reading, writing and maths in every class every day. You will enjoy sitting with your child/ren talking about their day, perhaps sharing their home readers and library books. Your interest can never be over estimated!

Mental Computation Strategies

Our mental computation strategy we are using this week is estimating. Below is the poster displayed in all classrooms with an explanation to assist Mums and Dads to help their child/ren in the area of mental computations or ‘number facts’. Estimation is a life skill to quickly ‘guess’ or approximate an amount.

In Mathematics we often stress getting an exact answer. In everyday life a few cents here or there are not going to make much difference ... you should focus on the dollars! Estimation is finding a number that is close enough to the right answer. You are not trying to get the exact right answer. What you want is something that is good enough, as it is usually in a hurry.

Thought of the Week –

“Truth is beautiful, without doubt; but so are lies.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson
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

45 Arthur Street
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