From the Principal

Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members;

“A negative thinker sees a difficulty in every opportunity. A positive thinker sees an opportunity in every difficulty.” “Imagine with all your mind. Believe with all your heart. Achieve with all your might.” – Anonymous.

Health and Wellbeing in schools is an important part of what we do every day. There are a number of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines related to Health and Wellbeing that schools adhere to. The Guidelines for Managing Excessive Heat in Schools is one that parents may be interested in given the current weather conditions we are experiencing. Unless the Principal or Regional Director determines that the school must temporarily close due to a disaster or emergency situation, Queensland state schools remain open and students are not sent home during periods of excessive heat or heat wave conditions. Heatwave conditions are specifically when excessively high temperatures combine with high humidity levels and are sustained over a number of days. That means, although the predicted maximum temperature for a region may be in the mid-to-high 30s, unless this coincides with high humidity and lasts for a few days, it is considered ‘hot’ rather than a ‘heat wave’. Schools have a number of strategies that can be used during excessive heat or heat wave conditions. On such days I closely monitor the temperature and humidity (from the Bureau of Meteorology) throughout the day to determine which strategies may be required to be enacted. At Blackwater North SS we have a number of air-conditioned spaces students can utilise during play breaks to help manage these circumstances. We also actively encourage students to remain hydrated and monitor students for signs of heat stress throughout the school day. I will discuss this further at next Mondays P&C Meeting which runs from 7pm in the Staff Room at school.

As reported at previous P&C meetings this year and last year, we have reviewed our school Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students for enactment this year. P&C have acknowledged endorsement of this document. This plan includes the school’s expectations about behaviour and it outlines a range of consequences for inappropriate behaviour. Our school-wide plan for managing behaviour is aligned with Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). Positive Behaviour for Learning is an evidence-based whole school approach to establishing the social culture needed for schools to be effective learning environments for all students. PBL is not a program. It is an organisational framework for identifying, adopting and applying evidence-based practices for building and supporting academic and social success for all students. PBL ensures that all students have the social and emotional skills needed to succeed in school and beyond. PBL assists schools to teach students expected social behaviours and, when implemented with integrity, it is an effective strategy for preventing school-based behaviour problems including violence and bullying. Teaching and supporting social behavioural skills creates student behavioural health and contributes to improving the effectiveness of academic support systems. PBL applies data-based decision making to improve student discipline, academic and social and emotional learning outcomes. Staff have begun participation in the training of PBL and we have formed a PBL Team to help manage PBL implementation throughout the year. I will discuss this further at next Mondays P&C Meeting and be encouraging the school community to provide a parent representative that will become a member of the PBL Team this year.

I will be out of the school this Thursday & Friday participating in a professional development activity and then from the 1st – 3rd March when I attend the state-wide Principals Conference. On both occasions Sara Whittington, our Deputy Principal, will be in charge of the school during my absences.

Thank you for your ongoing support and active participation in school related activities.

Cheers
Rod Wood
Principal

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
<table>
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<th><strong>DEPUTY DIRECTIONS WITH SARA</strong></th>
<th><strong>3A NEWS</strong></th>
<th><strong>LIBRARY NEWS</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Lost Lunchboxes</strong> Each afternoon, there are numerous lunchboxes left in the eating area. Where possible, I return them to the owners. However, unfortunately most of the lunchboxes are un-named. These lunchboxes sit on the eating tables until they are claimed. Children are asked by teachers to collect them at the end of lunch break, however not all children remember to do so. Please ensure your child’s belongings are named so they can be returned to the rightful owner.</td>
<td><strong>In 3A we have been working hard to develop a deep understanding of our weekly behaviour focus. We ardently discuss what each value looks like, feels like and sounds like in all areas of the school. We always put our best effort into everything we do!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Class borrowing began last week. Students from Prep to Year Six will visit the library weekly to borrow books. A reminder that each student requires a library bag (preferably waterproof) to keep the library books safe to and from school. We have had many students without library bags this week so we would love to see an improvement in the coming weeks.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Robotics</strong> Robotics will be commencing again this week. It will take place on Thursday afternoons. Mrs Mackay will be assisting with the programme so Mrs Smyth will be taking 5A on Thursday afternoons.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Our “Bookaneer Book Fair: Where books are the treasure!” will be on next week in week 5, 20-23rd February. This season’s Book Fair will be an exciting celebration full of fun activities and hundreds of books kids want to read. Our ‘design your own pirate flag’ competition closes Thursday 16th Feb, so don’t forget to return these to the library tomorrow!!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Every Day Counts</strong> Did you know that missing 1 day of school per week means your child is missing out on 2 weeks of valuable learning each term. That is 8 weeks of valuable learning per year. If this is your child then he/she is finishing the school year only having completed ¾ of the learning required for that year. This then has major impacts on the ability of your child to learn in the following years. Each week on Parade, we will be highlighting our attendance data for the previous week. If you have a planned absence of 10 or more days, parents are required to apply for an Exemption from Compulsory Schooling. Approved exemptions are not included in the absence data and does not get recorded as an absence. Application forms for Exemption from Compulsory Schooling are available from the administration office.</td>
<td><strong>We hope the clippers don’t burn out this year with the line up for a #1 buzz cut at the annual ‘Shave For A Cure’ event on Friday 17 March!</strong></td>
<td><strong>We always receive a great range of books, activity packs and stationary items so we encourage all families to come in and have a look. We are open from 8:00am to 4pm daily. Any parents wishing to help during these times are welcome to add their name to the roster which is located on the pin board at the front of the library.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Textbooks and School Supplies</strong> Unfortunately, a number of our students have not yet purchased the textbooks or other essential supplies for school. If your child does not have the appropriate books, it is hampering your child’s education. It is now 4 weeks into the term and almost halfway through Term 1. Children have been missing out on vital learning and teaching due to the lack of supplies. If you having difficulty with purchasing supplies, please contact the Principal and we can come to a solution for your child.</td>
<td><strong>At the helm as always will be Mrs Anderson. She has enlisted Mr Wood and Mrs Pursche from our staff, and our cheeky Lollypop Lady, Mrs Fletcher is also busy fundraising. All four will be sporting a VERY SHORT back and sides come Friday 17 March.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read With Me Club</strong> <strong>Our Read With me Club has begun, students continue to fill out your purple tickets to go into the draw. We want to see those buckets full of purple tickets ready to be drawn on parade each week.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Early Arrival at School</strong> It is recommended that students do not arrive at school before 8 am. We understand there may be occasions when children will need to be at school before 8 am due to parent commitments, sports training, etc, however, some students are arriving as early as 7 am on a daily basis. This early start makes a very long day for your children. Students arriving at school before 8:30 am are required to sit in the junior undercover area until the bell rings. This does include Prep students.</td>
<td><strong>Maddisen is hosting a SAUSAGE SIZZLE BLACKWATER HARDWARE SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY from Sam Cold drinks also for sale Body Shop products to view</strong></td>
<td><strong>Miss Bruce’s Brain Teaser</strong> <strong>What 5-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?</strong> <strong>Week 2’s answer – a clock</strong> <strong>Happy Reading</strong> <strong>See you at the library</strong></td>
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A BIG BLACKWATER NORTH WELCOME TO:

**UNIFORM SHOP**
TUESDAY 3 -3:30PM
FRIDAY 9:30AM, AFTER PARADE

**NOTICE FOR CATHOLIC PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN GRS 4, 5 & 6**
Wishing to receive the Sacraments this year.
There will be an Introductory Gathering for parents and children at 3.15pm Wednesday 8th March at the Catholic Church Kurrajong St Blackwater.

Lydia Wullems - Special Education Teacher
Kerri Hancock Guidance Officer

Congratulations to our school captains for 2017 (pictured with Mr Wood) - Shayla Powell and Shanleigh Carey (captains), Summerlyn Clark and Logan Brown (vice-captains).

**A NOTE FROM YOUR SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER**

School photos are almost upon us again!
The school has engaged MSP Photography to create your school photographic records for this year and you are invited to purchase prints of your child.

On photo day, every student will be photographed regardless of whether you are purchasing or not.

Your child will bring home a personalised order envelope from the photographers. Please take care to read and follow all the instructions carefully. This will ensure your order is processed smoothly and efficiently and will help you to avoid any late fees.

For those of you ordering online, you will notice a new, improved version this year. Please take care to follow the instructions carefully and ensure you log onto www.msp.com.au to enter your child’s shootkey.

Additional order envelopes are available from the school office for separated parents, blended families and grandparents. You will need to collect these on or before photo day and give it to the photographer on photo day. Be sure to write “Mum’s order” or “Dad’s order” on top of your envelope.

To order a sibling or friends photo, please collect Sibling and Friends Order Envelope from the school office on or before photo day, or order it online at least 24 hours in advance. Please note: Sibling photos are only for siblings within the school.

If your child has been photographed in a special group (ie sports team or leadership team), order envelopes will be available in the weeks following photo day. Please watch this newsletter for information when they will be available.

As school staff are unable to help with photography enquiries or payments, please direct your questions and comments directly to MSP Photography by phoning 4921 3355.

Thank you for your co-operation and we look forward to a great photo day. Keep smiling!!!
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: 0437239084 (Pengana) 0403137309

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