From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Lockdown
Last Friday we had a lockdown drill. These are a part of our school procedures and requirements for workplace health and safety. We must have a practice drill for both Fire and Lockdown every term. I understand the angst that some parents would have felt over their child coming home and telling them the school had a lockdown. If there is a real lockdown at Blackwater North SS we will most definitely inform you as soon as possible via a letter home and our Facebook page.

Social Media
Over the past week we have had a few incidents involving social media like Messenger, FaceTime, Facebook etc. Last week I spoke to year 5 and 6 students, regarding the use of social media. Can I also make you, the parents, aware that we have come up with some steps to follow if they feel something is wrong: 1. Report it or show parents and 2. Remove yourself for a while. I am not trying to discourage students from having these types of social media, as this technology is a part of our world today. I am more so warning them of the risks involved. I have also reminded students they should be informing parents of their activity on social media.

Holidays
I hope all staff, students and their families have a safe and enjoyable school holidays. Just a reminder that we start back on Tuesday 6 October. Also, Monday 19 October is a Student Free Day.

Drop Off and Pick Up Zones
Just want to remind parents that these areas are for the safety of our students. They are exactly that - a drop off /pick up area, not a place to congregate or park up. These areas get very busy and dangerous, so please keep in mind we are doing this for the safety of our students and your children.

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.

P&C Fete
Congratulations to the P&C for organising such a great event, and also thank you to staff for operating stalls.

Ready Set Prep 2016
We are still taking enrolments at the office. Next term we are conducting interviews in Weeks 2 and 3. Please ring to book your appointment. Also, transition days are occurring in term 4 for the kindy students. If your child does not attend kindy at one of the centres please ring and we can arrange for your child to attend these transition days.

Thank you to teachers and staff for another successful term. Thank you to Paul Hilder for his time on 1B, Lee-Anne Cracknell who has been acting in the HOC position, Janelle Denman who has been acting as Support Teacher (SEP) and also Joyce Beath for Acting Deputy Principal. We also welcome back Sara Whittington, who will be returning as Deputy Principal.

Until next week, Damien

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
Swimming will commence in Week 2 next term - keep an eye out for the note that will go home during the first week back. Money and permission will need to be returned promptly to enable your child to participate.

Brekkie Club will resume Wednesday of Week 2 - 14 October.

©All volunteers: Bridget, Emmi, Chevita, Ruia and Casi for their great support.
©The students who have displayed great leadership skills by serving the school community deserve a special mention.
©Our sponsors: Rosewood Accommodation for all breakfast essentials; ESS for their weekly donation of bread
©Jellybabies Playgroup: for their kind donation towards fruit.

The students benefit greatly because of your support. Without you, this breakfast program would not have been possible.

Mrs Weir
BNSS Chaplain

Let’s Get Ready for Prep
Enrolments and Information Packages are available for children who wish to commence Prep in 2016. If your child turns five by June 30th, they are eligible for Prep that year. Late last year, changes were made regarding Prep. Principals have the discretion to enrol students who turn five by July 31st. Prior to a decision being made, a detailed enrolment interview will take place to determine his/her suitability and readiness. The table below is a guide to assist families determine a child’s Prep eligibility.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Birthday</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/07/09 to 30/06/10</td>
<td>Prep Year</td>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Year Three</td>
<td>Year Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/07/10 to 30/06/11</td>
<td>Kindy</td>
<td>Prep Year</td>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Year Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/07/11 to 30/06/12</td>
<td>Kindy</td>
<td>Prep Year</td>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>Year One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/07/12 to 30/06/13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Blackwater Social Riders Club recently donated $500 to the Special Education Program. We have used this donation towards the professional development of teachers and the purchase of sensory items for classrooms. Recently some of the teachers attended an Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder information session conducted by Dr Tony Attwood, Dr Michelle Garnett and Sue Larkey.

We are extremely appreciative of the Blackwater Social Riders Club generous donation.

Our Weekly Attendance Statistics
For the last two weeks our “Every Day Counts” Champions have been 4A & Prep B with over 91% attendance. Good job!
Week six at girl life was healthy girl. Greg Bird came and showed us some self-defence. Suzanne Russell the school nurse talked to us about body image and nutrition, Alicia Anderson did boxing with us and Tanya Connolly did boot camp.

This week’s my life rulz says “I can get use to the place I am in and still grow”. This rule is about turning lemons into lemonade. We may not be able to change our circumstances or situation but we can change and work on our attitude. We don’t have to wait for perfect conditions to be happy and content. In every situation there is always things we learn about ourselves and others. It is an invitation to get new skills, new insights and new tools. We need to believe that the situation is only temporary and believe for a better future.

I don’t need to give up because there is always a way through or around. Sadness won’t last forever
There are no hopeless situations not even one
I can be happy on the inside even when things are hard on the outside
Beautiful plants can grow in the desert and I can grow anywhere too.
I am not powerless in hard times. I can still choose to have a good attitude

Week seven at girl life was fashion week. Photographers Karen Bird, Karly Broderick and Michelle Broom did photoshoot with us. We also had fun learning to walk down the catwalk, doing deportment and writing positive affirmations on people’s photos.

This week’s my life rulz says “My choices matter. They all have consequences.” Our daily choices will invent who we are becoming. Our choices will decide our character and our future. The people we are in relationship with are inheriting who we are, not what we are achieving. Freedom in life is choosing what we know is the best thing to choose. Every word, every action and every choice has a flow on at some point in time that will enhance our life or diminish it.

I am not an island my choices affect the people around me too. There is never really anything done in secret it gets found out one day. I have more power than I think my decisions are important and they decide what my life will be like.
Only I can choose who I become. Am the artist of my life and my paintbrush is good or bad choices.
I can choose to be obedient. I can choose to be kind. I can choose to learn
I don’t always have to get what I want. Disappointment is ok.

Last week was high school week. We had a visit from the police who talked to us about the safest way to use social media. Junior secondary teachers Carlie Roberts, Laura Bowen and Skye Barry also came to Girl Life this week so that we could ask them any questions about high school. All our guest and leaders joined in our tribal wars session. In our teams we earned points in tunnel ball fun, tug of war and sumo suit wrestling. It was heaps of fun. This week we also joined together to collect items to fill Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We are going to send them overseas to children who are less fortunate than us and who have been affected by sickness, disease, war and famine.

This week’s my life rulz says “Sometimes life is fair and sometimes its not.” We all have an inbuilt sense of justice inside us and when it is not met we can become angry, indignant and confused. Life just isn’t fair and nor are people all the time. We don’t want to grow up insisting that life and people must always be just and fair, it will make life very miserable and rob us of enjoyable things. Your life, your choices will vindicate you if you continue to make good choices.

Most adults do the best they can to be fair. Sad things happen to good and bad people every now and then I can fight or be angry when things are unfair or I can accept the disappointment and let it go
It’s okay if things aren’t always fair. I can live with it.
Learning to be okay when things are disappointing will make me a great person

Next Friday September 18th is our graduation luncheon at Jags restaurant from 12.30-3.00. Please be there at 12.15. Come beautifully dressed with a big smile and wonderful manners.
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 (Mysa)