From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

SAFETY
As you would all be aware one of the values we follow here at Blackwater North is Safety. Last week on parade I spoke to students regarding the STOP, DROP and GO areas at both the front of the school and on Park Street near the hall. It is concerning that we have parents walking students across the road instead of using the Zebra Crossings. We have also had reports of parents waving their children across from the other side of the road.

I understand this may save a few minutes, but is it worth it? Is our children’s safety really worth it? By following best practice we are setting an example for our students and reinforcing the expectations that make Blackwater North students great kids.

Could I also remind parents and carers that the cul-de-sac in the school grounds near the tuckshop is NOT a drop off zone - this is for deliveries, parents who provide medical support to their children through the day, P&C members who organise jobs such as uniforms, book club etc and emergencies.

Farewell Katrina!
This week we say goodbye to Katrina Kreis, who has been our very capable Head of Special Education Services for the past three years in our local district. Katrina has done a fantastic job in this role and her quiet, easy manner and professionalism will be missed by all at our school. We wish you the very best of luck in your future role at Taranganba State School.

Congratulations Blake McDonald
Congratulations Blake McDonald on a fantastic effort in your sport of Go-Karting. Blake was 5th in his class in Australia, being the number 1 Queenslander and 78th in the country out of 7500 drivers, not only children but adults as well. Blake set himself a goal to make it into the top 100, so congratulations once again for achieving your goal, Blake.

If you have any stories or achievements that you would like to share please send details to my email address at the top of the newsletter. I am always happy to share good news stories - especially when they are about our fantastic children at Blackwater North State School.

Staff Professional Development
Over the past two weeks the teachers at BNSS have been participating in some extra PD. The first of these was YUMI Deadly Maths - this involves effective teaching practices of mathematics which involve students being hands on and includes how to show students that mathematics can be fun. The other PD was QCAA NAPLAN marking guide to writing. This was to immerse our teachers so when they are marking their children’s writing they can mark it against the NAPLAN writing criteria, which is what we are working on at improving this year at Blackwater North SS.

The biggest complaint I get these days from parents is “I ask them how was school?” They reply “Good.” “What did you do today?” “Nothing.”
Here are some conversation starters-
1. What are you learning?
2. How are you doing?
3. How do you know?
4. How can you improve?
5. Where can you go for help?

Until next time, Damien
Everyday Counts!

It is great to see everyone back into the swing of school and our attendance data for the first half of the term has been tremendous. This year, we are aiming to have a daily attendance rate of 93%.

Every day last week our attendance was above 93% with Thursday, 11 February being the highest attendance of 97.4%. Damien talks to the children about getting “Mr. Hoare Green”. This refers to the colour of our attendance data. The department uses colour bandings to indicate the performance of state school’s data. The green banding means we are meeting our target of 93% for 2016. Each week on Parade, I will be providing students with an update of how our data is tracking and one class will receive an incentive prize. The prize could be for the highest attendance during the last week or improved attendance during the week or most consistent attendance in the term. It will vary from week to week.

Textbooks and School Supplies

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 Sara at school and we can come to a solution for your child.

Early Arrival at School

It is recommended that students do not arrive at school before 8am. We understand there may be occasions when children will need to be at school before 8am due to parent commitments, sports training, etc. however some students are arriving as early as 7am on a daily basis. This early start makes a very long day for your children. Students arriving at school before 8:30am are required to sit in the undercover area until the bell rings.

Parent Rosters

It has been fantastic to see our wonderful parent volunteers coming to your child’s class or tuckshop. Not only does your child feel special, but we also value the support you provide. Many playground conflicts can be resolved quickly if the children use these strategies. A quick resolution is useful so the children can continue their games as continuing to play is most children’s desired outcome. If the first 4 strategies are not successful, then children must report to the teacher on playground duty. The report will then be followed up by the teacher on duty and referred to the administration team if necessary.

Children do need to remember that Talk Firmly does not mean talk nastily. Talk firmly occurs when the children state clearly what they desire in a firm, clear voice - not an angry voice.

Behaviour Management

In the playground, children are encouraged to use the High Five strategy to resolve conflicts. The 5 key strategies for High Five are:

- Talk Friendly
- Talk Firmly
- Ignore
- Walk Away
- Report

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Miss Amy Shoebridge will be taking on the Acting HOSES position. Over the last few years Amy has worked here and at Blackwater State School as an SEP teacher.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working at the Blackwater North State School Cluster. Dedicated staff, supportive parents and delightful students have made the last three years extremely rewarding.

Katrina Kreis

I am leaving my position as Head of Special Education Services (HOSES) of the Blackwater North State School Cluster as I am transferring to Taranganba State School in Yeppoon.

Our “Monsters Book Fair: Reading is so much fun, it will give you goose bumps!” will be on next week in week 5, 22-26 February.

This season’s Book Fair will be an exciting celebration full of fun activities and hundreds of books kids want to read. We always receive a great range of books, activity packs and stationary items so come in and have a look. We are open from 8:00am to 4pm daily. Classes go to the library at their normal borrowing time and will all get to have a look and fill out a ‘wish list’. 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.

Our Read With Me Club will be getting a makeover in the coming weeks. Look out for news on this throughout the term. Keep on reading and recording this in your individual class reading logs.

Happy Reading

Library Staff
6B NEWS

Year 6B have been putting effort into the ‘Run for your life’ challenge and have run a total of 415 laps already. When we record our laps each morning we multiply the laps by the distance around the oval (400m) to work out how far we have run. We have run a total of 166,000 metres. Hopefully our class can move closer to first place as we are third place at the moment. This challenge has been great for improving the students’ stamina when running and also their skills in Mathematics.

Prep Speech Screeners

This year, Blackwater North have purchased a Speech Language Pathologist two days a week to support our students.

Recently the school sent out permission forms for prep students to be seen by the Speech Language Pathologist throughout the year. The Speech Language Pathologist will be completing a screener that collects information about a child’s speech, language, and vocabulary.

With permission returns being a bit patchy, and as the school needs to get these completed, we have decided that all prep students will be speech screened. If you don’t want your child to have this screening completed please ring the office as soon as possible.

Amy Bird (SLP)

SHAVE FOR A CURE

On Friday March 11 we will be having our annual ‘Shave For A Cure’ on parade. This is a fundraiser for the Leukaemia Foundation and on the day there will be a gold coin donation collected as it will be a free dress day.

You can come to school with your hair already coloured (no spray cans at school) or have your head shaved on parade if you have parental permission (a note is required to be sent to the office with the clipper size noted). Sponsorship forms will be available from the office or Mrs Anderson. This is a great way to raise money for this very worthy cause.

Thanks for your support.

School Banking day is FRIDAY.

If you wish to open an account for your child, forms are available from the office.

Blackwater Netball Association Sign On

When: Tuesday 1st March
     Tuesday 8th March
Where: Hunter Street Netball Courts
Time: 5 - 6pm
Ages: NetSetGO 5-7yrs
     Nettas 8-10yrs
     Cadets 11-16yrs

Parent help will be very welcome Free sausage sizzle Looking forward to a great season

Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

Serving Regional Australia

Visit the Mobile Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people. Staff can provide you with information and support. On this trip, the Australian Taxation Office will be available to assist with advice and information about tax and superannuation.

Community Grants Program 2016

Round 1 – Available Now!

Local organisations are invited to apply to Council’s Community Grants fund for programs or equipment/facilities in the following categories:

- Community Assistance up to - $5,000
- Sport and Recreation Assistance up to - $5,000

Applications close 5pm, 28 February 2016

Application forms and guidelines are available from Council’s website, libraries, offices and rural transaction centres.

Website: www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au

Phone: 1300 242 686

Scott Mason
Chief Executive Officer
PO BOX 21
EMERALD QLD 4720

THERE HAS BEEN A FEW REPORTED CASES OF SCHOOL SORES. FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.HEALTHDIRECT.GOV.AU/IMPETIGO
Mineworkers Club BLACKWATER

Open 7 Days
Bistro Open for Lunch & Dinner

45 Arthur Street
Blackwater

Phone: 49825590
Fax: 49827474