Dear Parents and Caregivers

Writing PD
As you would all be aware one of our major focuses for 2016 is writing. Last week our teachers were fortunate enough to attend a Writing Professional Development session which was organised by Blackwater State High School’s Master Teacher, Carlie Roberts. This PD was run by a curriculum expert from Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) from Brisbane. Denise Keane, the writing specialist, came to Blackwater to provide every teacher within our Blackwater cluster schools an opportunity to work on developing our students’ writing skills by unpacking the principles of good writing. All three Blackwater schools attended the PD and received training in developing an understanding of how we can extend our students’ writing skills. A more in-depth full day course was also offered by Denise to a selection of teachers from all three schools where we unpacked the skills writers need to equip themselves with to reach their full potential. The day was jam packed with teaching tips we can deliver in our classrooms to improve writing. Together we worked on creating common writing goals for our students to work towards.

School Leaders
Congratulations to our 2016 Leaders who officially received their badges at Assembly. I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.
School Captains - Aiden Lane and Lara Lloyd-Jones
Vice Captains - Henry Sherwell and Alexis Claven
Sports House Captains
Archer - Grace Hill and Hayden
Cook - Charlize Laherty and Cody Lawrie
Gregory - Chloe Hodgson, Bryton and Ninikupoiyeh Moore
Oxley - Lily and Olivia Allen
These students also attended the GRIP leadership course in Emerald last week. Thanks to Mrs Smyth for supervising this.

Interactive Whiteboards
This year we have committed to purchasing 13 more Promethean Interactive whiteboards, approximately $70,000. This will mean all classrooms will have the latest whiteboards. The school in previous years had had a roll out of 5 per year. My thinking is that by the time we get to replacing them all there will be newer, more modern interactive technology devices.

Until next time, Damien
DEPUTY DIRECTIONS with Sara

Attendance Statistics

WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR TO DATE
ATTENDANCE 94.4%

Last week’s attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>92.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Every School Day Counts

It is almost the end of the term and I know many families are starting to plan holidays. If you are planning an absence - whether it is for a holiday or an appointment etc - it would be appreciated if you could inform your class teacher of the upcoming absence. Teachers are currently planning assessment timetables to ensure all assessment tasks are completed by the end of the term. If your child has a significant absence, it may affect their results. It is very important that children attend school as much as possible.

Breakfast Club

Flor Weir, our chaplain has organised for a breakfast club to occur each Wednesday here at school. It will commence next week (week 7). Children will be able to have cereal, toast and milo each Wednesday morning. The breakfast is available to any student who would like it and is completely free. Flor may need some assistance with organising children and serving so if you are willing to spare 30 minutes on a Wednesday some time through the term it would be greatly appreciated. A huge thank you to Rosewood Accommodation Centre for sponsoring the breakfast programme.

1A NEWS

1A have had a great start to Term 1! We have begun learning about re-tells in Literacy. We know that a retell has a beginning, middle and end. Check out our re-tells of Blossom Possum: The Sky is Falling Down Under in the school foyer. We have also been working hard on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in our writing. Well done to 1A for showing tremendous effort in their writing!

Happy 1Aers enjoying power snack after a productive writing session!

SHAVE FOR A CURE

This year’s event is shaping up to be a biggie!!!

As always, Mrs Anderson will be getting a #1 and this year she will be joined by Mrs Pursche, who is trading in her trendy GI Jane style for a buzz cut also!

Mr Smyth has committed again this year and there’s even a whisper that the local constabulary might join in.

From the student body we have Ashley sacrificing his locks and Bryton is going to say goodbye to his rats tail.

Our year two student, Rebecca and her big sister Elissa (from the high school) will be losing over 30 centimetres of their gorgeous long hair which they will be donating to the Cancer Council. Now that’s amazing!

What can you do?!

You can sponsor one of these very brave participants.

You can come to school on Friday 11 March in free dress and/or funky hair for the cost of a gold coin donation to the Leukemia Foundation.

Remember, no spray cans at school!!

LIBRARY

Class borrowing began in Week 2. Students from Prep to Year Six will visit the library weekly to borrow books as well as complete some literacy based activities. Prep to Year Three borrow one book and Years 4 to 6 two books (one non-fiction and one fiction).

Each student requires a library bag (preferably waterproof) to keep the library books safe to and from school. Any students with unreturned loans from 2015 need to attend to this as soon as possible. Please see the library staff if you need to discuss any issues relating to unreturned books.

Week 4’s Best Borrowing Class was Prep C – Miss Bruce’s Class!

(Keep an eye out for Week 6 and 7 winners in our next newsletter. N.B. No winner in Week 5 due to Book Fair)

Our “Monster Book Fair: Reading is so much fun, it will give you goose bumps!” took place last week.

It was a great, exciting celebration full of fun activities and hundreds of books kids wanted to read. We saw some very daring, scary monsters entered into our ‘Create a Monster’ competition. These eye-popping decorations created a more dramatic atmosphere when parents came to explore the Fair. Listen out on parade this week to hear the winner’s announced! The winner of our monster ‘eyeball’ jar full of lollies will be announced this week also.

It was lovely to see so many students enthusiastic about reading and excited to show their parents the wonderful range of books. Our fair was very well supported and almost $6000 was spent on books throughout the week, giving our library over $1800 to spend on new books.

A huge thank you to our volunteers: Paula McDonald, Sabina Christensen, Melinda Lau and Natalie Sanderson, and to all parents for supporting us in this venture. We look forward to our next fair later in the year.

Read With Me Club

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

Good luck to all students competing in the Cross Country tomorrow!
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 photoday. 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 photoday.
Keep smiling!!!

Blackwater North State School
Temporary Teacher Aide Position

Applications are invited for a temporary Teacher Aide at Blackwater North State School from 11 April - 9 December 2016 for 15 hours per week.

All applicants must provide a current Resume and a covering letter (2 pages maximum) detailing your relevant experience and suitability to the job description. A copy of the detailed role description is available from the school’s administration.

The successful applicant will have demonstrated skills to work well in a school environment.

Applications close Tuesday 15 March 2016 and should be addressed to: Business Services Manager PO Box 327 Blackwater Qld 4717 or email - bsm@blacnort.eq.edu.au

The successful applicant must have a Working with Children Check completed to obtain a Blue Card.

PREP STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME

There are still some parents of children in Prep who have not paid the $40 contribution towards resources. We ask that you call to the office to settle this amount as soon as possible. Many thanks to those parents who have paid already.

NOTICE FOR CATHOLIC PARENTS of children in Grades 4,5, and 6 who wish their children to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion during this year.

The first meeting for both parents and children will be held at 3.15pm Wednesday 9th March in the meeting room at the Catholic Church, cnr Kurrajong and Fir Sts.

Blackwater Netball Association
Sign On

When: 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
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

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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

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Fax: 49827474