Dear Parents and Caregivers

New Friendship Award

Starting in August we have a new friendship award beginning. This award is to acknowledge those students being accepted of others. These nominations can come from students or teachers. The purpose of this award is to reduce those incidents where students maybe not so accepting of others, or are being mean or hurtful, which can sometimes lead to bullying. Personally I feel this will be a great initiative, and I also want to thank the parent who has kindly donated two $50 vouchers to be spent at our local sports store, as the prize for this award. At the end of each month on parade we will draw out a boy and a girl who have been nominated for this FRIENDSHIP award.

What’s happening in the classrooms?

Last term we as a school made a decision that each class teacher will teach a 20 minute Behavioural or You Can Do It lesson. This is to continue our great work around being a PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) school. These lessons will encourage and teach students the positive skills needed so their behaviour and actions are demonstrating the right choices.

This semester you will notice changes in regard to report cards. You may have noticed this change in curriculum letters, as Art and Technology will NOT be reported on as individual subjects, they will be incorporated within other subjects. I believe (and when talking to the majority of parents) the importance of a child’s education is based on that they can read, write, and complete basic operational mathematics. Don’t get me wrong, I think that Art and Technology are important areas for a child to develop and demonstrate their skills, but this can be done by integrating this into our other subjects. This does not mean Art and Technology are not taught - it means they are integrated and taught within other subjects but will not be reported on individually.

To show our commitment and support around reading and numeracy at Blackwater North State School we have organised this term that every class will have a teacher aide in their classroom for 45 minutes during Reading and Numeracy Groups and 45 minutes during Math/Numeracy.

Using Data to inform teaching of Reading, Numeracy and Writing

At the end of last term we had students in year 2 and year 4 sit a practice NAPLAN test. We have now entered this data into a fantastic computer program developed in Central Queensland by Anton Richards called CQ3S. Last week we were lucky enough to work with Anton, to receive the most benefit from this program. This program helps us identify where the gaps are in reading and numeracy, so teachers can focus on these areas within the classroom. Abby Green, our writing expert, is also working with year levels with an emphasis on Writing. We will be using the data from our On Demand writing tasks that students will be completing this term, to identify areas of improvement.

Parent/Teacher Interviews—Weeks 9 & 10

Keep an eye out for the note coming home regarding these important meetings with your child’s teacher.

Nationally Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Schools throughout Australia are currently completing a collection of data on students with a disability. Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability. All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

In 2013, 10% of Queensland state schools participated in the first year of implementation. In 2014, two thirds of Queensland schools will participate and all schools will be collect data from 2015. Our school will be involved in the nationally consistent collection of data from this year.

Please be reassured that the Department will not provide another organisation with any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
- level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you are aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue to consult with you.

While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let us know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the Department’s website: http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/disability-data-collection.html


Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact me directly.

Until next week, Damien

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**NEWSLETTER No. 11**

**BLACKWATER NORTH STATE SCHOOL**

William Street BLACKWATER 4717
PO Box 327
BLACKWATER Q 4717
Email: admin@blacnortss.eq.edu.au
Web Site: www.blacnortss.eq.edu.au

**Dates To Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAIDOC Week</td>
<td>Mon 20 July—Fri 24 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
<td>Mon 27 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick a Peck of Pickled Peppers Performance</td>
<td>Fri 31 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opera Qld Performance “Fizz”</td>
<td>Mon 10 Aug</td>
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<td>Spelling Resource</td>
<td>Wed 12 Aug</td>
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<td>Working Bee 9-11AM</td>
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<td>Central Highlands Eisteddfod</td>
<td>Mon 17 Aug—Wed 19 Aug</td>
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<td>Last Day Term 3</td>
<td>Fri 18 July</td>
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<td>First Day Term 4</td>
<td>Tues 6 Oct</td>
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**BIRTHDAYS 12 July - 25 July**

- Hugh Prep C
- Riley Prep C
- Ellie Prep A
- Syl 1B
- Harry 1B
- Tayla 1C
- Bella 1A
- Regan 2B
- Charlie 2B
- Matthew 3B
- Zac 4B
- Murphy 5B
- Oscar 5B
- Harley 6A
- Lee-Anne Cracknell
- Katrina Kreis
- Taria Smyth

**WEEK ONE ATTENDANCE**

92.3%

**LOST PROPERTY**

Our two lost property bins in the Tuckshop Area are overflowing with many items, including school hats, winter jackets, lunchboxes, water bottles and shoes. Please consider taking the time to look through the bins. Any unnamed and unclaimed items will be washed and given to either the Uniform Shop as second hand options or to a local charity.
**Thought of the Week**

“The sure cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.”

- Dorothy Parker

This week marked the beginning of our next one hundred days of learning and the next chapter of implementing a range of strategies to make a difference to the learning of our students. For our preps it is their First 100 Days of Learning - this is being celebrated at Prep today!

We wish all our Duaringa District children all the very best at the Athletics Meet in Dysart today.

**It is NAIDOC Week!**

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have had many activities to enjoy this week. As a school we planted our feet in the school’s front lawn. A banner was created around the 2015 theme - "We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect & Celebrate".

NAIDOC week began with a Combined Church service on Sunday. On Tuesday the Town March was spectacular and we were very proud of Jada and Jayden for speaking on behalf of our school at the flag raising ceremony. That afternoon we met Preston Campbell at the sports fields. Friday is a free Skate Night at the PCYC from 6-8pm.

**Behavior Buzz of the Week**

This week ... resilience. Resilience is a life skill that helps us deal with our day to day set backs, challenges and tough times. When we are resilient, we show courage, confidence and try our very best. When we show resilience, we see every day as a new day and an opportunity to start again from where we had left off. Please consider discussing resilience with your child/ren this week.

**Behavior Awards this Fortnight:**

Weeks 1&2:
Prep – 2: Isla 1C, Ava 1C,
Years 3-6: Maddison 4B, Demi 6A,
Alexia 4B

Our Weekly Attendance Statistics

Last week our ‘Every Day Counts’ Champions were PB and 5A with 94% attendance - good job.

Joye

**Library**

This term is extremely busy in the library as we celebrate Children’s Book Week. Each week during library lessons, students will be read the shortlisted books from different categories. Junior students will focus on the Early Childhood category and the picture book category, where middle and upper grades will focus on Early Reader books and have a brief look at the Information books. The winning books will be announced in week 8. In week 7, we will hold our Book Week celebrations and have a Book Week free dress, where students can come dressed as their favourite book character. In week 7, we will also hold a Book Week disco. More information regarding this will be sent home later in the term.

There will be many different craft activities to complete at lunchtimes in the Library and lots of competitions throughout the term. Competitions can be found on the pinboard outside the Library.

Remember to keep reading and recording the books that you’ve read on your sheet. When your sheet is full, return it to your classroom teacher or Mrs Kronk. You have until August to turn them in. You will receive a reminder when your sheet is full. If you have overdue books, please return them so that we know they are not missing.

Stocktake will be occurring in the Library this term which means that we will close the library for a week later in the term to complete this. If you have overdue books, please return them so that we know they have not been issued.

**2C News**

We have been talking about stereotypes this term. We know that stereotypes can be unfair and don’t let everyone have the same opportunities. For example, only boys play soccer and only girls ride ponies.

On Friday we brainstormed everything we thought we knew about a (stereotypical) police officer. We thought that Police Officers were usually men. They have stern faces and they take people away. They have fit bodies, they test people and chase ‘badies’.

We then invited two members of the local police station to join us. We got to meet Constable Kirra and Constable Shaun. They spoke to us about being Police Officers. We learned that some of the things we thought about Police Officers weren’t true or fair.

We brainstormed again. We realised that Police Officers can be girls too. They don’t always chase ‘badies’, sometimes they catch people doing the right thing and give awards. They didn’t have stern faces, they were smiling and happy.

**Parent/Caregiver Survey**

The 2015 School Opinion Survey is open until 31 July 2015. If you have already completed your survey, thank you and please disregard this notice. If not, please complete the online survey and we will remain open until 31 July 2015.

This is your opportunity to have a say about what this school does well and how this school can improve.

If you haven’t received any survey access details yet, please contact the office.

**Tutors Needed!!**

We have a few parents requiring tutors for their children. If you are qualified and able to assist then please contact the school and we will pass on your details.
Girl Life is a fun and practical program that helps to give girls knowledge and skills on how to be healthy on the inside and out. Using the program "MY LIFE RULZ" it provides some tools to build emotional and mental resilience into their lives before going to high school.

In our first Girl Life session 36 year 6 girls gathered from around the district to celebrate the beginning of girl life 2015. Activities included table setting and manners, fancy serviette folding, cute cakes and savoury treats. Thanks to our special guest Mrs Kelly Hayes for making all the cakes and icing for our cute cake decorating activity and to Miss Bridget Bolger for all the preparation involving making savoury treats.

Our first weeks MY LIFE RULE was "I belong here". To belong is one of the greatest human needs and is foundation for emotional health. The knowledge that we belong to a community/school gives us a sense of belonging and this is affirmed by adults who validate, nurture, affirm, love and connect with a child. A sense of belonging is a building block for our mind to be our friend, to be healthy and secure. It is important to remember that our sense of belonging should never be put in the hands of other people. We shouldn’t let others decide whether we fit in or not. It’s up to us to decide.

Here are some of the truth coaches about belonging that you can reinforce with your family to help family members to think and respond in a healthy way.

I belong on earth. I was created to live here.

Feeling different or being ignored doesn’t mean I don’t belong here. We are all different.

Being left out happens to everyone not just me.

I don’t need to always feel like I belong. Sometimes my feelings are not right.

I make the rules to decide whether I fit in or not.

It’s for me to decide.

A new place can feel scary but I still belong. I’m ok where ever I am.
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: 043739084 (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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Your Club

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- Gaming Lounge
- KENO
- TAB
- A.T.M. & Eftpos Facilities
45 Arthur Street
Blackwater
Phone: 49825590
Fax: 49827474