Dear Parents and Caregivers

Last Friday I was fortunate enough to attend the Community of Practice Market Day, where principals from CQ region had the opportunity to share our Community of Practice work. The Community of Practice I was involved with looked at self-regulated teachers and what motivates them? I will also be involved in these conversations about opportunities for collaboration at the Principals’ Conference which is in Gladstone next week on Thursday and Friday 2-3 June.

Some reading that I want to share with you all is:

John Hattie (June 2015) tells us that teaching can be a lonely profession – in a room with a closed door with a group of young people and expected to make a difference.

What critical role can I and the leadership team play to create opportunities, build trust, provide resources and develop ways for teachers to collaborate and question their impact on student learning?

Hattie suggests that a leader’s role is to ask two questions:
1. What is the evidence that each student is gaining at least a year’s progress for a year’s input in every subject?
2. What is the school doing in light of this evidence?

To ensure that all teachers are having maximum impact, there has to be:
• Clarity of the curriculum including alignment between curriculum and assessment
• High expectations and early intervention

As leaders do we have the courage and passion to recognise good practice, build on success and invite others to join with us to collaborate for the benefit of students?

From these readings a point that has really hit home with me, and one that I express with all staff in our school, is “If we keep doing, what we are doing - we are always going to get, what we get.” So unless good teaching practices and effective teaching occurs, the data (students) will stay the same. We as professionals need to identify and self-reflect on what we need to improve in regards to our practices.

Some other reading that I have been doing regarding Hattie is the argument of class sizes. Reducing class sizes is an innovation that certainly appeases parents, teachers and school leaders. Parents see reducing class size as a proxy for more attention being paid to their children. School leaders see it as a proxy for more resources will need to be directed to support smaller groups of children.

Some reading that I want to share with you all is:

Maybe if they changed how they teach to make the most of having fewer students, the effect would be larger. But they do not. To paraphrase Andreas Schleicher, “if you have to choose between great teaching and a small class, go for the great teaching” (Schleicher 2015).

Celebrating Success--

Probably one of the jobs not really given enough acknowledgement is the Administration/Business team. At our school these people are Carolyn Rogers, Jenny Napper and Sandi Gainsbury. I would like to congratulate the team on their results in the Internal Audit we just recently had. Our school received an Effective Rating, which is the highest you can receive on an Audit. Congratulations once again.

Tuckshop starts today!
This is not just Wednesdays, it will be open every day starting today. Please remember to register on flexischools.com.au. Also please note that there will be a cut off time for all orders which will be 8:30am every day - there will be NO cash or over the counter orders. If you are having difficulty registering please see Carolyn Rogers or Damien Hoare and we can help you with this. Any other questions will need to be directed to the P & C Association.

Until next time, Damien

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
**Free Dress Day**
Free Dress Days are exciting for the children as they do get to wear some of their own special and prized outfits. However, we still need to ensure our students are safe. Children are still required to wear enclosed shoes, not sandals or thongs. If sandals or thongs are worn children will not be able to play. Shirts should have sleeves and preferably a collar to assist with sun protection. Singlet tops are not suitable to wear to school on free dress days.

**Crazy Socks to Support Chappy Week**
To celebrate Chappy Week, we will be holding a crazy sock day on Friday, 27th May. To wear your crazy socks, you need to pay a gold coin donation. The money raised will be donated to the Blackwater Chaplaincy LCC. Each year, the Chaplaincy LCC need to raise $22000 to keep our chaplains in our schools. The Chaplains support all three schools in Blackwater and Dingo State School.

**Report Cards**
Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, 22 June. Children who are away on that day will receive their report cards when they return to school. Report cards will not be available before this date due to the process that needs to be completed before the release of them.

**Lost Property**
We have an explosion of lost property outside our Tuckshop. Can your children locate their hats or lunch boxes? They may well be amongst the lost property box waiting for someone to claim them. It is always great to name items so that they can be easily returned to the owner.

**Attendance**
Attendance at Blackwater North has always been high but as the cooler weather starts to appear there are many bugs and illnesses that cause our children to stay home. It is essential that your child stays home if he/she is ill. It is all the non-essential absences that cause problems for our students. These are the days that you may go to Rockhampton for the day or plan a family holiday during the school term or your child stays home because grandparents and other family are visiting.

Listed in the table below are some interesting facts. Have a look through the table and work out whereabouts your child would be sitting in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/She only missing just…</th>
<th>That equals…</th>
<th>Which is…</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s…</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 4</td>
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**Premier’s Reading Challenge**
You can play a big part in your children’s future by encouraging them to be part of this positive initiative.
A note went home last week outlining the details. Mrs Hayes still has plenty of forms in the library for those wanting to participate.

**Happy Reading Library Staff**

**Library Staff**

**2/3C News**
What a fantastic term we have had so far!
We left NAPLAN behind us as we ventured to the Capricorn Caves in Week 6! We braved the long drive to arrive at the wonderful caves. We met with Ro and Keegan and went on bushwalks, braved the Zig Zag passage, met a friendly blue tongue lizard, viewed the palaeontology dig sites and enjoyed a Cathedral Cave tour. Did you know that the acoustics in the Cathedral rivals that of the Sydney Opera House?! We even got to sample some local honey! It was an exciting and exhausting day!

We have also been learning about the sun and the Earth’s rotation in Science this term. We have discovered why shadows change size and that the sun doesn’t move in the sky. We put all the information we learnt into some helpful posters. Come and check them out in the office foyer!

**Library Bags**
Has your child got a library bag? They protect our books from damage from water bottles and other items that float around in school bags. The library has been giving out plastic bags to student’s whom haven’t remembered their library bag. We currently have very few bags left and have gone through over a thousand of these plastic bags just this year. Please help by providing your child with a library bag that can be re-used. Please send any of your spare plastic bags to the library also.
Up and Coming Dates for P&C

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Monday 13 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Monday 18 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Monday 22 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNSS 2016 Fete</td>
<td>Friday 2 September</td>
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Meetings are held in the staffroom in Administration Building starting at 7pm. Please feel free to come along and have your say.

BLACKWATER STATE HIGH SCHOOL
P&C ASSOCIATION
40TH ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

Official Opening and Award Presentation
Friday 27 May @ 7pm
Blackwater Civic Centre
Admission: Adults $15.00
Students $5.00
Under 12 Free
Student Entry Forms are available from the office. Closing date for entries is Monday 23 May.

A big thank you to the Blackwater Social Riders Club for their recent donation of $500 to our Special Education Program. Pictured is club member Barry Stockwell presenting the cheque to Damien. Thank you very much for your kind donation and continued support of the Special Education services our school provides to the district. It is very much appreciated.

MEGA CENT SALE
SUNDAY 29 MAY
JNR FOOTY GROUNDS
HUNTER STREET
DOORS OPEN 9:30 FOR 10:30 START!!
Raffles ~ lots of prizes ~ lucky draws ~ drinks ~ morning tea

Blackwater Crushers U9s
Paul Bowman Cup Fundraiser

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND EXISTING ADVERTISERS OVERLEAF!

“Expect the best expect success”
Junior Secondary
Year 6
Transition Taster Day
Meet and Greet
High School Curriculum Activities
High School Routines
Day: Thursday
Date: 9th June 2016
Time: 12.00 – 3.00pm
Venue: Blackwater State High School

Parent Afternoon Tea 3-4pm
BSHS Library
Meet and Greet ~ School Tour ~ Uniform Fashion Show

LAST WEEK’S WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
91.7%

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6 Attendance</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>91.3%</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
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WORK AS A POLLING OFFICIAL AND MAKE VOTES COUNT. TEMPORARY POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR AREA TO WORK ON ELECTION DAY. FOR INFORMATION VISIT WWW.AEC.GOV.AU/POLLING-OFFICIALS OR CALL 13 23 76.