Dear Parents and Caregivers

As 2015 comes to a close and 2016 sits on the horizon, I just wanted to share the staffing layout for next year with classroom teachers, and also share the great news that I will be continuing on in 2016.

On page two is a list of classes and teachers for 2016. Due to numbers this is very much a draft version as there is a very strong possibility there will be multi-age classes next year. As I have been requesting in previous newsletters, if you know you are leaving and will not be here in 2016 could you please let the office know. The reason for this is we have had some families already leave without letting us know and we are still receiving enrolments coming in. This really does make a difference, because this could determine for example whether a cohort has 62 students or 56, which can mean 2 straight year levels or 2 multi-age year levels. This will also be impacted by the master teacher interviews which are happening today.

I wish all students applying for any position all the best, as I know there are some great leaders in the current year 5 cohort. The successful nominees will be announced at parade on Friday, 4th December.

I realised that you as the parents are going to be captain of this and what I mean by that is that at the end of the day, you as the parent makes the decision regarding whether your child comes to school or doesn’t come.

At present our attendance is sitting at 92.2% for the whole school, but the benchmark is 94%. If we can get to this our data turns green, which yes, is great but there are so many more benefits to lifting our attendance. Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

Our school encourages all parents and members of our community to support the State Government initiative to improve student attendance. The program – Every Day Counts – has four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day
- schools should monitor and create ways to improve attendance in schools
- attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community
- children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school.

While most students attend school consistently, there is a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. If your child is away, you need to let the school know the reasons beforehand, or within two days of returning to school.

For more information or if you need support regarding your child’s attendance, see our admin team and download the guide for parents at: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/.

Facebook and Social Media

Just a reminder to parents and carers that video recordings and photos of students other than your own children, is totally prohibited, especially uploading this on to social media sites like Facebook, particularly with swimming carnival coming up. You do not have permission from parents of the other children or from the school. Can we please take precautions with this as it is a legal issue.

Year 6 Graduation

If you are bringing a sibling of one of the Year 6 graduates as a part of your +2 invitation, can I remind you that inappropriate behaviour eg- running around, noisy behaviour during presentation, etc., will not be tolerated. I will personally ask you to leave and the behaviour of your child will be dealt with at school the next day. This is a time for parents and staff to celebrate and watch a milestone of the graduating students, not for myself or staff to be on behaviour control. It is the year 6 students’ night and I will not have the focus taken off them. Thank you for your understanding of this matter.

Until next week, Damien

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
School Camps
Both camps were very successful as the children enjoyed many new experiences. I have heard from the Year 6s that the plankton trawl was spectacular and the food was amazing.
Year 5 children found many of the challenges difficult but the feelings of achievement at the end were very rewarding for the children. The teachers have continued to build on the skills learnt in the classroom and will continue to do so into year 6. Some skills that year 5 spent the camp week focusing on are: making a plan before attempting the challenge; the plan is not working so what are we going to do now; yelling over the top of each other does not work effectively or achieve success; working together and using people’s strengths will achieve success. Year 5 students and teachers would like to thank the generous donation Mr Russell Lane and Mr Chris Dampier gave in giving up a whole week of work to spend at the camp preparing all the food and assisting with the activities. Our food was always delicious and ready for us to eat when we wanted. A highlight was the roast beef and vegetables with honey carrots. Thanks to Anita Lawrie for spending a couple of days at camp with us as well. It was very much appreciated and helps make our camp a success. We cannot wait till next year’s camps on 14-18 November 2016.

Attendance
Last week our attendance had some fantastic highlights with year 1, year 2, year 5 and year 6 achieving 100% attendance on at least 2 days. Our whole school attendance last week was 94.8%. This was an increase compared to the past 2 weeks.

Please remember every day counts and every day is a compulsory school day. The swimming carnival for years 3-6 is coming up next week and children who are not attending the swimming carnival will be marked absent and a reasonable explanation will need to be provided to the class teacher.

Prep Barbeque
On Tuesday 8th December commencing from 8am, a sausage sizzle breakfast will be held outside the Prep classrooms for all our 2016 Prep students. During the morning the children will meet their Prep teacher and be able to go to their 2016 classroom. The morning will finish at 9am. Older siblings are welcome to join us for breakfast.

Book Fair!
Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair this term. It was great to see so many people in the library buying books. We sold just over $6200 in books which is great. Our school receives 40% of this total in books for our library. We were able to purchase all of the books from Book Fair which we don’t already have in our library and will still have some money left over to spend through Book Club next year.

Drawing Competition
Well done to all the students who entered the Under the Sea Drawing Competition. Each winner received a $10 voucher to spend at the book fair. It was great to see so many entries. We want to thank Mrs Transton for all her hard work organising the competition.

This week is the last week of the year where students can borrow books. If your child has a book, please make sure it is returned next week. It would be great to see all of our library books returned. Notes will be sent home in week 10 for those students who haven’t returned their library books.

Classes | Teacher
--- | ---
Prep A | Casey Martinez
Prep B | Teagan Cochrane
Prep C | Christine Bruce
1A | Bridget Bolger
1B | Kelli Giles
1C | Larissa Cuttler
2A | Nicole Sherwell
2B | Shannon White
2C | Sarah Vink
3A | Jade Mackay
3B | Tegan Collon
4A | Sally Martel
4B | Janelle Demnan
5A | Michael Chadbone
5B | Leah Barrett
6A | Taria Smyth
6B | Ashleigh Donovan

2016 Booklists
Booklists have been distributed today with the newsletter! Please check your child’s bag! As in past years ordering from OfficeMax is an option. Please note that orders will need to be placed by Tuesday 1 December to include free delivery. After that date, a charge will apply. Full details are provided on the booklist.

Breakfast Club News
Next week - Wednesday 2nd December - will be our last breakie club! It has been a fantastic year! Let’s celebrate together.

Starts at 8:15am. Don’t miss out! We would like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the Breakfast Club: Rosewood Accommodation, ESS and Jellybabies Play Group for their generous contributions throughout 2015.

To our wonderful volunteers: Mrs Bridget Javati, Mrs Emmy Sterling and to all the amazing student leaders who came to help set up, serve and clean up - thank you! Wishing you all a fantastic Christmas and Holiday break!

Mrs Weir- School Chaplain

Library

Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 9 December
@ 6pm
This culminating event on the school’s calendar will be held in the grounds outside the Hall, weather permitting.

Birthdays 15 Nov—28 Nov

Tray  |  Prep B
Tom  |  Prep B
Maddex  |  Prep C
Joshua  |  Prep B
Brayden  |  1A
Lucy  |  1C
Ella  |  1B
Sam  |  1A
Cassidee  |  2A
Brock  |  2B
Vanessa  |  2B
Lollita  |  2C
Callum  |  3B
Amelia  |  4A
Slater  |  4B
Bianca  |  4A
**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Tuesday 1 December is our Year 3 – 6 Swimming Carnival for 2015. It is a fun day that allows students to compete regardless of their ability level. Please encourage your child to attend as last year’s carnival only had roughly 80% attendance.

**What:** Swimming Carnival  
**Who:** All students in years 3 – 6.  
**Where:** Blackwater Pool  
**When:** 1 December. Students will be let in at 8.30am unless they are swimming in 100m events beforehand.  
**Cost:** None. P & C are generously paying the entry charge for each student.  
**Travel:** Parents are to make their own travel arrangements to and from the pool. The bus will leave Wey St at 2.50pm as normal.  
**Dress:** House colours, hat, swim shirt. Blackwater Pool has requested that no coloured zinc be worn. Students can swim their race without a swim shirt on; however, they will need to have a swim shirt on to participate in the free swims.  
**Bring:** Water bottle, lunch and/or spending money. The pool kiosk and P & C BBQ will be operating all day and students can buy food at the designated lunch time. Here is a brief outline of the day’s events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00am</td>
<td>100m races and 200 IM for swimmers looking at Capricornia level representative swimming. No points awarded for these events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.30am</td>
<td>Students let into pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10am</td>
<td>50m events start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>50m relays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Lunch and free swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15pm</td>
<td>25m events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td>Lunch and free swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Age Champions announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15pm</td>
<td>Students dismissed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50pm</td>
<td>Bus leaves Wey St</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STUDENT MEDICATIONS**

Medication held at the office on behalf of students must be collected by the end of the last week of school. This includes Epipens. Any out-of-date medication will be disposed of.

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**Bluff-Blackwater Amateur Race Club**  
**Saturday, 28th November 2015**

**BLUFF CUP & NEWMARKET FAMILY RACE DAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| GATES OPEN AT 11am | Under 18 - $5  
| 18 & over - $10 | No ID = No Wristband  
| (NO BYO ESKIES, DRINKS or FOOD PLEASE) |  
| 5 Local Races | Fashions of the Field  

**FREE RIDES FOR THE KIDS** Jumping Castle, Mega Slide, Merry-Go-Round & Mechanical Bull

BAR ~ CANTEEN ~ FAIRY FLOSS / SNO CONES ~ ICE CREAM TRUCK
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

Your Club
Last session

• Kids Outdoor Play area
• Gaming Lounge
• KENO
• TAB
• A.T.M. & Eftpos Facilities

Open 7 Days
Bistro Open for Lunch & Dinner

45 Arthur Street
Blackwater

Phone: 49825590  Fax: 49827474

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Blackwater  Q  4717

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