From the Principal

Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members;

“Confidence is silent. Insecurities are loud”. “Give every day the chance to become the most beautiful of your life” – Mark Twain.

I am very happy to announce that we have been asked by the Regional Executive Director through the Assistant Regional Director to stay on in the role of Principal at Blackwater North SS until at least the end of Term 1, 2017. I continue to enjoy every day at this wonderful school and appreciate the dedication from our staff, the drive of our students and the support of our parents. I look forward to continuing our positive and productive relationships as we help students to continue to improve each day.

I would like to thank the large group of parents who attended the Special Meeting to organise our new P&C Executive that will work through to the 2017 P&C Annual General Meeting and hopefully beyond! It was pleasing to see so many interested parents who were willing to give their time to take on a variety of P&C roles and responsibilities. A Special Meeting of the P&C will be held at 6:30pm on Monday 7th November in the Staff Room to accept & confirm new memberships – if you are not currently a member and want to be you will need to attend this meeting with a completed Membership Form. Our next monthly P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 7th November directly after the Special Meeting so can anyone attending either meeting please arrive for the 6:30pm start. We look forward to welcoming our new P&C Executive and Non-Executive position holders at this meeting. We would also like to make a call for additional Agenda items for this meeting – so far we will discuss the new P&C Roles that were organised at the Special Meeting (19 Oct), the end of year Christmas Carols Concert, Tuckshop and organise revised Bank Signatories / Woolworths Account details. Please advise the ladies in the Office of any additional Agenda items you would like discussed by Friday 4th November.

Please keep in mind that it is that time of the year when schools are planning for next year and as we all know enrolments determine the number of teachers we get allocated in schools each year. Given this can we please request any families who know or think they will not have their children attending Blackwater North SS in 2017 please contact the Office, or me, as soon as possible. Given we will also soon be undertaking work on class lists, teacher allocations and classroom locations, any parents who feels they need to advise myself of any considerations that we could take into account when forming classes for 2017 are invited to do so, in writing, by Friday 11th November. Whilst we are unable to make guarantees, parents are welcome to make us aware of any relevant information for our consideration in regards to this.

Prep Enrolments for 2017 are currently being taken. If your child was born between 1st July 2011 and 30th June 2012 then your child is eligible for Prep in 2017. Consideration can also be given to students born up to 31 July 2012 via an Application for Early Entry to Prep but this needs to be done in consultation with the Principal. Please come to the school Office with your child’s Birth Certificate and we can assist you with Enrolment Forms and book an Enrolment Interview for you. Prep Transition activities have begun and will continue throughout Term 4 this year.

Last week’s whole school attendance was 92.3%.

This Friday is when we celebrate World Teachers Day, the day we acknowledge our teachers and say thanks for the significant contributions they make in our classrooms and communities. The teaching staff at Blackwater North SS are a wonderful group of people who are dedicated in their role as teachers and who display a high level of professionalism. We are very lucky to have such enthusiastic people working with our students. On behalf of the entire school community I thank and congratulate our teachers for everything you do! These quotes sum up some of great things teachers do every day of their career - “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn!” – Benjamin Franklin.

“A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others”.

Cheers
Rod Wood
Principal

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
**Kindy- Prep Transition**

This week is the first week of Kindy visits. Children who are commencing Prep in 2017 will be visiting our Prep classrooms for the next 4 weeks. Our Prep teachers will be completing some exciting activities with the Kindy children on their visits. We appreciate the Kindy and Childcare Centres making the effort to visit our school. It is a huge effort for the staff to organise.

**Prep to Year 1 Transition**

As part of the getting ready for Year 1 process for our current Prep students, the Prep eating area will change. From Week 6, on Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays the Prep students will join the year 1 and 2 students in the Junior Undercover Area for eating time. They will return to the Prep area for playing when the play bell rings. The Prep students will have a designated area to sit just as Year 1 and 2 students do. This transition process will assist the students in understanding the rules and procedures required for Year 1.

During the last week of this term, the Prep students will visit a year 1 classroom to see how it is different from the Prep classrooms.

**Home Readers**

Last year, the school lost over 400 books from the library. Many of these are home readers which are not returned by students. These books are worth around $10 each so every year it is a huge cost to replace these books. During the next few weeks, we are asking all parents and students to have a very thorough look at home to track down any of our missing home readers. If you find any, no matter how old or damaged they might appear to be, please return them to the library. It is important for us to find as many as possible so that every student has the opportunity to develop their reading skills.

**Sun Safety**

A “No Hat, No Play” policy is enforced at lunchtime. Children will be required to wear a hat at all eating times and all play times, regardless of where they play. Hats will need to be worn in the multi-purpose court and in the undercover areas. The only area that will be hat free will be the library. If children do not have a hat, they will be required to sit on the blue seats in the eating area.

If children do not bring a hat for PE they will not be able to participate in the PE lesson. Children also need to wear their hats when walking to and from school each day. The school staff would appreciate parent support in this endeavour to keep our students sun safe at all times.

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

This semester’s Book Fair theme is: **Australia Story Country – Find Your Story at the Book Fair!** Book Fair will be on in **week 5, October 31 – November 3.**

The book boxes have arrived and the library staff are madly unpacking some amazing items. Mrs Hayes is particularly excited about some of the stationery that has been delivered this term.

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 funky stationary items so come in and have a look. We are open from 8:00am to 3:30/4:00pm daily.

Classes go to the library at their normal borrowing time and will all get to have a look at the range of books and fill out a ‘wish list’.

We currently have no parent volunteers which makes it difficult to run such an event. Any parents wishing to help during these times are encouraged to add their name to the roster which is located on the pin board at the front of the library.

Mrs Hayes is running three separate competitions to celebrate Book Fair. Preps and grade 1’s have the opportunity to complete some X-Ray art, Grades 2 & 3 are writing short stories with bonus points for incorporating Aussie terms and the senior students (grade 4-6) are finding definitions for Aussie slang words. Scholastic are donating $60 worth of Book Fair books and stationery to share amongst the lucky winners. We hope to see many, many entries roll in this week and next until the deadline next Friday morning. Good luck!

Due to the library being set up for Book Fair it will not be accessible to students at lunchtimes. D Block will be opened and available instead.

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**Home Reading Logs**

It has been so exciting to see our reading ticket boxes filling with those lovely purple tickets every week. Thank you to those parents who are assisting with the completion of these reading logs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3 Winners:</th>
<th>Ella – 2/3C</th>
<th>Katie - 4A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Happy Reading**

Mrs Hayes & Library Staff

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**1/2D PLANETEERS - LET’S SAVE WATER!**

Year 1/2D has been researching the many uses of water and the importance of conserving it. In science, students discovered that even though the majority of the world is covered in water, only a small part of that water is drinkable! We looked at different types of water from salt water, fresh water, frozen fresh water in glaciers and finally the water that is drinkable.

In 1/2D, we are afraid to get a little messy when it comes to experiments and the students were tasked with making a bucket of fresh clean drinkable water into something horrible. Students were able to physically feel the effect that oil has on water and no matter how much you mix the water the oil will stay as the top layer. Students then polluted their water with their lunch scraps and wrappers. Amongst the squeals of disgust the students quickly saw the effects that pollution can play.

Through their best efforts the students attempted to make their water clean again and “fix it” by taking out all their rubbish, however the damage had already been done. The students of 1/2D were able to see the importance of why we need to take care of the water that we have. I look forward to the conversations that will follow the science experiment as the next set of planeters set out to conserve and protect Earth’s resources.
**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Swimming Carnival is 29 November and it is an all-day event for all students in years 3-6. Anyone can nominate for 50m races. Nominations will take place on Friday 4 November and then students will have to swim a qualifying time in Swimming lessons to qualify for the final at the Swimming Carnival.

25m events are available for those students who don’t qualify for 50m events, so, everyone, regardless of ability, will be able to get in the water and race for Champion House points.

Further information around cost, program and lunch menu will be made available in the coming weeks. Any questions or concerns, please come see me.

Mr Smyth

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**“MUSIC UNDER THE STARS”**

**BLACKWATER STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

**TONIGHT @ 5:30PM**

Recently our U10 and U12 Rugby 7s teams competed in the Western 7s competition. The U10s played Saturday and came away with a win against Middlemount and losses against Tieri and St Pats. This saw them come up against Moura in the 5th v 6th playoff which they put in a gutsy performance to win.

U12s played Saturday and took comprehensive victories over Middlemount, Denison, Baralaba and Moranbah. The boys continued their good form on Sunday taking a 24-0 semi-final win over St Pats Blue, to make the Grand Final for the first time ever. Despite a valiant performance we fell just short to St Pats Green 15-12.

Great effort to all boys and girls involved.

Thanks to all parents as well as Mrs Smyth and Blackwater Basilisks members Peter Webb and Neil Dellar for helping out.

Mr Smyth

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**WESTERN 7S**

Uniform Shop will open again on FRIDAYS after parade. Payment is currently EFTPOS only through the office.