From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Damien Hoare, I have come to Blackwater North State School acting in Marie Whitfield’s place. This will continue until the end of the year. Over the past 8 days I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and look forward to the next 7 months. Blackwater North has great students and also great staff.

I would like to acknowledge the great work that Marie and the staff have done and continue to do at Blackwater North State School. There are big shoes to fill and I hope that I can do this for the school community.

I started teaching in Gladstone in 1999, then lived and worked in London for 5 years. In 2007 I continued teaching in Gladstone, then started my principal journey - 2009 Principal Marlborough SS, 2010-2012 Builyan SS, Acting at Eidsvold SS P-12 for 6 months, 2013-2015 Ambrose SS (126 students) with 4 weeks acting at Calliope SS (581 students).

I look forward in working with not only the Blackwater North school community, but also looking forward to working with the other principals of Blackwater State High and Blackwater SS. I hope with my background that I can offer many strengths to this school. I hope to meet more parents as time goes by. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns. There is never a problem that can’t be fixed.

Attendance

I just want to express the importance of having your child/children attending school. I am very passionate about State schooling and educating our students. But unfortunately this cannot happen if the student is not at school or is continuously late. Attendance is the key, and every day does count.

Parent Concerns

I have spoken to staff about the way in which any parent concerns need to be addressed. As a parent, it is important that you know that all concerns should be addressed to the teacher. We encourage all students to let a teacher know if they have a concern, if they are hurt or if they need assistance in any way. It is the teacher’s job to then help them. Sadly when students don’t tell us about their concerns then we don’t know about it and can’t do anything to fix the problem. Please chat with your child, encouraging them to talk to a staff member if there is a problem.

Until next week, Damien

On Friday 29th May at 1.00pm we will be showing the movie Temple Grandin in the ‘Meeting Room’ which is at the other end of the Prep C block. Temple Grandin starring Claire Danes; clearly illustrates the difficulties of living with autism. The movie details the struggles that Temple Grandin faced during her life. As a young child in the 1950s she had no speech, was fascinated with lights and patterns and wasn’t interested in interacting with others. Doctors told her parents that she should be institutionalised. Today Temple Grandin travels the world talking about autism. She is also an international consultant in livestock handling and a lecturer in animal science at Colorado State University. Over half the cattle in North America are handled in systems that she designed.
I respect others’ learning
I show mutual respect
I am honest

Champions were 5B with assist, please advise

Important work undertaken in our State

We have been continuing to discuss and implement our Blackwater North State School Behaviour Plan with their students.

Confidence – RESPECT - focusing on manners and RESPONSIBILITY - wearing our school uniforms.

I am honest
I show active listening
I use manners
I show mutual respect
I am friendly
I show pride in our school
I respect others’ learning

Behaviour Awards this Fortnight

Thanks once again to our fantastic P&C Association who will provide Behaviour Award prizes for our weekly winners.

Week 5, Term 2
Prep – 2: Cassidee 2A, Vincent 2B
Year 3-6: Cody 5A,

Our Weekly Attendance

Attendance is again our priority in 2015 at Blackwater North State School. Our target this year is to reach 92.2% and have all classes as ‘Every Day Counts’ Champions. Last week our school reached 93% attendance, well done! Last week our ‘Every Day Counts’ Champions were 5B with 94.49% attendance - good job!

P & C AGM

Last Monday we had our P&C AGM, it was wonderful to celebrate the important work undertaken in our State Schools by our Parents and Citizens Association, and share the last 12 months contribution to our school by the P&C. We acknowledge the valuable contributions that our BNS P&C makes in assisting to deliver quality educational outcomes for all learners. We look forward to more magnificent work from our P&C this year. Thank you to all our new committee members.

Sports Days 2015

Very soon, all families will receive a Sports Day Menu and Price List to order Morning Tea and Lunch, using our paper bag system for Junior Athletics, Prep-3 on Thursday 11 June and Friday 12 June for Senior Athletics, years 4-6. Volunteers and helpers are also sought for the two days. If you are able to assist, please advise Lyn in the Tuckshop by dropping in or telephoning 4980 5333.

Joye

Library

2A is certainly the class to beat when it comes to returning library books on time. Last week, once again, 2A only had two overdue library books. In the library, we would love to see more classes with such few returns.

National Family Reading Month

is almost at an end. I hope that all students have made a big effort to read every night in May and have been filling in their form. On Monday the 1st of June, the website will be opened for all students to log their progress and record the total number of minutes that they spent reading in May. There are great prizes to be won just by logging your reading time. The website is www.scholastic.com.au/nfrm

Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Premier’s Reading Challenge has begun. 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 in the Library. You have until August to fill your sheet.

2B News

This term in 2B we have been extremely busy - making sure we get our numbers right, introducing new and improving our old strategies every day; stepping back in time for History seeing just how big, chunky and difficult old technology used to be.

English has been combined with our Science to discover everything we can about frogs, from egg spawn to adult frog, and creating information reports. Busy day every day … come check out our life cycles on display in the foyer of the office!

Every day at school counts!
From 2B & Miss O’Sullivan

AUTISM AWARENESS MORNING TEA

On Thursday 28th May an Autism Awareness Morning Tea is being held at Blackwater North State School in the Hall from 9.00 - 11.30am. The purpose of the morning tea is for those interested in learning more about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including parents and teachers, to talk with other community representatives. We will have a representative from Autism Qld, a medical practitioner, parents and other interested people. Please ‘drop in’, share morning tea and chat to others about ASD and pave the way towards developing a greater understanding of the needs of those with Autism.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK ~ 22 MAY 2015

The town of Blackwater has been lucky enough to be chosen to host the Central Highlands Eisteddfod for 2015. It will be held on the 17th, 18th and 19th of August. It is the region’s premiere avenue for performance and competition. It is also a means of encouraging cultural activities in the Central Highlands, and is a non-for-profit organisation.

Miss Henderson is calling for all budding performers to enter the Eisteddfod this year to showcase Blackwater’s incredible talent. There are sections to cater for all performers, from verse speaking, vocal, musical theatre, piano, instrumental – and many more!

Well done to the following students on doing their Claim homework each night and making reading gains over the last five weeks - Caitlin, Lincoln, Calli, Jesse, Jack and Bailey. You should be proud!

Parade presentations were made to Group 3 participants on Friday 22 May.

Allyson Gray, Claim Teacher

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READER’S TOOLBOX

This week we saw the conclusion of Round 3 of Claim. Six students from 3A worked on improving and adding new reading tools to their toolbox. Some of the skills we learnt included decoding bigger words by looking at the prefix, suffix and base word as well as other sounds inside a word; retelling main ideas and smooth reading with expression.

These students will receive an additional five week intervention during class reading group sessions. Our focus will be in questioning skills. During this time I will also be working on reading skills with the other students in 3A.

The Mother’s Day Raffle run by the P & C raised $817. Prize winners are as follows:

1st Prize    Sue Stenhouse
2nd Prize    Rebeckah
3rd Prize    Julie Smith

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all who bought tickets.

SCHOOL DENTAL VAN

Dental forms have progressively been sent home to all classes. If you have missed the forms and wish for your child to visit the Dental Van, please collect the paperwork from the office.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS EISTEDDFOD—17-19 AUGUST

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If your child is interested in entering the eisteddfod, please come and see Miss Henderson for a nomination package or email her at lhend119@eq.edu.au and she can send you an electronic version.

Your ongoing support to the Arts is greatly appreciated, thank you.

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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)