Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back for 2016 school year at Blackwater North State School, I hope everyone had a safe, enjoyable Christmas.

At the end of last year I decided to create an 18\textsuperscript{th} class based on our enrolments at that time. Fortunately, enrolments have remained steady as most students were enrolled with the school prior to the beginning of the new school year.

I would like to welcome our new staff and also welcome returning staff after a well earned Christmas break.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep A</th>
<th>Miss Martinez 1A</th>
<th>Miss Bolger 1/2D</th>
<th>Miss White 2/3C</th>
<th>Mrs Vink 4A</th>
<th>Mrs Martel 5B</th>
<th>Miss Barrett 6B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>Miss Cochrane 1B</td>
<td>Mrs Giles 2A</td>
<td>Mrs Sherwell 3A</td>
<td>Mrs Mackay 4B</td>
<td>Miss Kuenz 5/6C</td>
<td>Mrs Loughland 6B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep C</td>
<td>Miss Bruce 1C</td>
<td>Miss Cuttler 2B</td>
<td>Miss Weller 3B</td>
<td>Miss Collon 5A</td>
<td>Mr Chadbone 6B</td>
<td>Mrs Donovan 6B</td>
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By creating this 18\textsuperscript{th} class we now have an average class size of 22 students from Prep to Year 3, and a 25 student average in Years 4-6.

**Explicit Improvement Agenda for Blackwater North State School**

This year we have two major focuses for the year - writing and effective teaching practices of numeracy. Below I have listed some of our targets and expectations for the school and within the classroom.

**WRITING**

**Writing Improvement Targets**

- Students in years 2-6 are to make improvement in each priority area of at least 1 score in a 5 week cycle.
- Students in P-1 are to be exposed to the writing priority area in order to develop their literacy and writing skills.

**NAPLAN** - 95\% of Year 3 above the national minimum standard (NMS), 90\% Year 5 above NMS

**NAPLAN** - 25\% of Year 3 in the upper two bands (U2B), 25\% Year 5 in U2B

**Writing Improvement Expectations**

- All students are to be aware of their specific goals in relation to the current writing priority area.
- All students are to be shown exemplars of poor and good practice relevant to the learning area.
- All staff are expected to participate in staff modelling and training at T&L meetings.
- All staff are expected to actively engage in the explicit teaching of writing.

**Writing in the Classroom**

Students require time to practice writing and opportunities for peer and teacher feedback in order to improve their ability to structure engaging, well written texts. In order to build students capacity to write it is important to plan for daily writing and allocate time for students to build upon their ideas to construct extended texts. A suggested writing program would include:

- Monday to Thursday - 10 minutes of daily writing using teacher provided stimulus.
- Friday - 20-30 minutes of independent writing time for students to extend their best or favourite piece of daily writing. This extended text may then be used for peer editing and/or teacher conferencing.

**EFFECTIVE TEACHING PRACTICES OF NUMERACY**

**Numeracy Improvement Targets**

- Students Years 1-6 80\% of students C or higher for each class.
- NAPLAN - 90\% of Year 3 above NMS, 95\% Year 5 above NMS
- NAPLAN - 20\% of Year 3 in U2B, 20\% Year 5 in U2B

**Numeracy Improvement Expectations**

- All students are to be aware of their specific goals in relation to the current numeracy priority area.
- All staff are expected to actively engage in the explicit teaching of numeracy.

**Numeracy in the Classroom**

Students require time to practice numeracy strands and opportunities for peer and teacher feedback in order to improve their ability. Highly effective teachers of Numeracy:

- believe that becoming numerate requires connected understandings
- anticipate that all students can become numerate
- plan for and maximise Numeracy-rich opportunities for teaching and learning
- use systematic assessment to inform planning and teaching
- embed problem solving and reasoning in daily lessons
- attend to the literacy demands of teaching mathematics, specifically the teaching of maths-specific terms and vocabulary.

Have a great week, until next time, Damien.
Our First Week in Prep A

We have had such a fantastic first week in Prep A. We have made some new friends and are learning lots of new things. In our classroom we have started learning new letters and sounds, numbers and read many new books. We have played with the blocks, play - dough and have created some wonderful art displays. One of our most favourite times in Prep A so far was Friday Fun Day. We got to play outside with our friends developing our social interaction and gross motor skills. We also had our first PE, Music and Library lessons (we were very excited when we were introduced to Roxy in the library). Every day is a great day in Prep A and we look forward to learning and growing this term.

Miss Martinez (Teacher)
Mrs Bird (Teacher Aide)

No Hat, No Play

It is an expectation that all children will wear their hat outside the classroom. This includes eating time and walking to and from school. If children do not have a hat, they will be required to sit on the blue seats at lunchtimes and are not allowed to play. Any wide brimmed hat or bucket hat is acceptable. It does not have to be a school hat. Caps are not suitable for school wear.

Parade

Parade is held every Friday at 9 am in the school hall. Parents are most welcome to attend this celebration of student achievements. Later in the year each class will perform an item at Parade. The band plays each week as well.

Lost Property

Lost Property is located outside the tuckshop in the pink bins. It is cleaned out regularly and named items returned to the owners. If your child loses an item, please check the bins. The port racks is another area where lost items seem to accumulate.

STAFF

Victor Bryant
Felecidad Dickens
Damien Hoare
Shannon White
Ann Maclean
Ashleigh Donovan
Tegan Collon
Selina Pitt
Tracey Barnicoat
Leah Barrett

BIRTHDAYS 1 Jan - 6 Feb

- Freya: Prep C
- Isabelle: Prep B
- Skyla: Prep B
- Logan: Prep C
- Riley: Prep B
- Lake: Prep B
- Bree: Prep A
- Faith: Prep C
- Kaleb: 1C
- Xavier: 1C
- Koby: 1B
- Grace: 1B
- Harrison: 1C
- Charley: 1A
- Tahi: 1B
- Amy: 1A
- Emma: 2B
- Indiana: 2B
- Taylor: 2A
- Rebecca: 2A
- Ella: 2B
- Charlize: 2A
- Madison: 1/2D
- Maddiisen: 2A
- Jacob: 3A
- Zakary: 3B
- Alissa: 3B
- Zack: 3A
- Chelsea: 3B
- Tyler: 4B
- Shanae: 4A
- Tate: 4B
- Jackson: 4A
- Kirra: 4B
- Ava: 4A
- Caleise: 4A
- Rosaliee: 4A
- Lily: 4B
- Blake: 5A
- Skye: 5A
- Emily: 5B
- Lily: 6B
- Charlize: 6B
- Kylan: 6B
- Ashley: 5/6C
NEW SCHOOLS CLOSURE WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Department of Education and Training has launched a new website which provides detailed information on closed educational facilities (including state, non-state schools and early childhood education centres) during a disaster or emergency event.

MASTERMIND GROUP STUDY

You are invited to a Mastermind Group study on “The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership“ by John Maxwell. This is a 5-7 week in-depth study that will afford you the opportunity to join forces and mastermind with a unique group of like-minded individuals who are focused on taking results in every area of their lives to a new level. Together, we will learn how to effectively raise our leadership lid by understanding and implementing the principle's of the 21 irrefutable laws of leadership.

When: Every Wednesday starting on 10 February
Time: 6:30-8:00pm
Location: To Be Advised
Cost: Free, but be committed

Sign up for study groups via email to etina.mlambo@northcuttsservices.com
Phone: 0418 826 902

FACILITATED BY ETINA MLAMBO
Member of the John Maxwell Coaching, Speaking and Teaching Team

Above: Shannon White 1/2D, Ashlee Weller 2B
Below: Casey Martinez Prep A
Right: Kelli Giles 1B

Above: Ashleigh Kuenz 4B
Below: Jodie Loughland 5/6C, Leah Barrett 5B
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: 0437239084 (Pengana) 0403137309 (Mysa)