From the Principal

Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members;

"Respect is earned. Honesty is appreciated. Trust is gained. Loyalty is returned. "Treat people the way you want to be treated. Talk to people the way you want to be talked to. Respect is earned, not given."

Code of School Behaviour – Education Queensland's Code of School Behaviour defines the responsibilities that all members of the school community are expected to uphold and it recognises the significance of appropriate and meaningful relationships. Essential to effective learning is a safe, supportive and disciplined environment that respects the following rights:
- The rights of all students to learn
- The rights of teachers to teach
- The rights of all to be safe

All members of school communities (parents, students and staff) are to abide by the Code of School Behaviour with the document outlining the expectations and consequences for not doing so. Related to this, is the expectation that parents do not discipline or speak with other parents children in relation to any event/issue, as this is the job of school staff only.

What is Bullying? – Bullying can be a topic that raises a lot of emotions, as well as confusion – so what is it exactly? "Bullying is a systematic and repeated abuse of power. In general bullying may be defined as:
- Dominating or hurting someone.
- Unfair action by the perpetrator(s) and an imbalance of power.
- A lack of adequate defence by the target and feelings of oppression and humiliation." Dr Ken Rigby (2010)

So bullying is NOT:
- Social bantering with minor insults and jokes.
- Mutual arguments and disagreements (where there is no power imbalance).
- Not liking someone or a single act of social rejection.
- One off acts of meanness or spite.
- Isolated incidents of aggression, intimidation or violence.

These are not considered bullying because they do not involve deliberate and repeated harm and have a power imbalance, but are still considered inappropriate behaviours and should be dealt with as per the school’s Responsible behaviour Plan for Students – something we definitely do at Blackwater North SS. So what should we do about it? Firstly, collect as much information about what is happening from your child, meet with the school staff and develop a plan of action. Remember to talk calmly during the meetings, don’t talk to other parents about the other children involved, as this can inflame the situation and if you are not happy about the outcome, arrange to speak with the Principal. Also remember, the school is legally unable to discuss the other child with you due to privacy laws.

Friendship Award – we are fortunate in our school community to acknowledge the great deeds of our students through our Friendship Award that is drawn at Parade. The original intent of this award was aligned to – counter-acting negative behaviour of our students, students accepting each other and involving each other throughout the school day in class or in the playground and to help our students grow friendships. Please talk to your children about these important values so that we see them reflected at our school by all of our students on a regular basis.

Parent Feedback Survey – a short, five question survey has been set up to gain your feedback as we move forward together to achieve school improvement through student improvement. Please use the following link and answer the questions by 3pm on Friday 16th September. Feedback will be shared at P&C Meetings in Term 4. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7LKRF9T

Cheers
Rod Wood
Principal
On Saturday 20th August, a dedicated and eager team of students from Blackwater North State Primary School competed in the Tournament of Minds regional finals for Capricornia. The team consisted of four year six students: Caleb Pollard, Dylan Petty, Henry Sherrell and Ninekupoyie Moore and three year five students; Summertime Layla Golden and Ryleigh Godfrey.

Tournament of Minds, or as it is often referred to TOM, is a problem-solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. Students work together to solve a demanding, open-ended ‘long term’ challenge over a six-week period. They have 10 minutes to present their solution to a panel of judges and audience of Tournament Day. The team also participate in an unseen “spontaneous” challenge on Tournament Day.

TOM is an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem-solving, to demonstrate their creative skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way. The TOM program looks beyond academic achievement and understands that the pursuit of excellence knows no boundaries. TOM offers real world benefits: working in teams, effective problem solving, thinking outside the square and the use of technology are values that employers are searching for in the employee of tomorrow.

Teams must select one challenge to solve from one of the following discipline- Applied Technology, Language Literature, Maths Engineering and Social Science. The Blackwater North team chose the discipline of Social Science and were presented with the challenge- Two Peas in a Pod. The focus of the challenge was that people preserve things for many reasons and in many ways. These can include objects, ideas and discoveries which give us a glimpse into the past and show what societies valued and experienced.

The Tournament of Minds team were praised for their well-rehearsed dramatic and comedic performance, a massive feat when put to consideration the students were able to create and rehearse their play - all in 6 weeks. The Blackwater North Tournament of Minds team showed great dedication for the competition, giving up many lunch times, attended after school and weekend practices for six weeks to ensure they were ready for the Tournament Day. They used this time to create costumes, props, rehearse and prepare as a team to work together for the unseen Spontaneous challenge.

Not only did they represent Blackwater North State School proudly by placing first place for the Social Science, they have also been invited to be one of two teams selected in the Regional Finals to represent Capricornia at the State Finals in Gold Coast. We wish them all the best for the next stage of the competition and if they show the exact same amount of determination, team work and eager approach to the next challenge as they did for the Regional finals they are sure to make Blackwater North proud!

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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.

**Week 6 Winners:**
- Sarah - 2/3C
- Cali - 4A

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

Forms were due back last Friday, August 26. Mrs Hayes is now in the process of entering all of the data and certificates will be issued in September. A huge thank you to all the parents who supported their children in this initiative.

**Best Borrowing Class:**

Our younger students seem to have it all over our senior borrowers, with some very low overdue percentages.

Congratulations to: Prep C and Miss Bruce - our Week 7 winners with only 2 books overdue, and 1A and Miss Bolger - our Week 8 winners with an overdue percentage of just 12%.

Congratulations! Your reading efforts do not go unnoticed!

**Happy Reading**

Mrs Hayes & Library Staff
STUDENT OF THE WEEK ~ 19 AUGUST

Tuckshop is now accepting daily cash orders. The canteen closes after first lunch break. Menus are available from the tuckshop. Tuckshop will be closed this Friday due to Fete preparations. Volunteers will be welcomed at the tuckshop from 8:30am on Friday to help with Fete preparations.

Discount ride tickets ($30) will only be available Thursday morning. After this, tickets will be available from the operators for $35.

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

Transitioning from primary to high school is a new and exciting experience for students and their caregivers. As the year rolls on we are quickly approaching that time of the school year where a lot of important decisions about high school are being made and there are questions needed to be answered. As part of our Year 6 Transition Program we are hosting a Year 6 Parent/Caregiver curriculum information session on Thursday, 1st of September, from 3.30pm – 4.30pm at the Blackwater State High School (BSHS) Library. Parents/caregivers of students currently in Year 6 have received an invitation via mail.

Come along, meet our staff and see their showcase of student work from a range of Junior Secondary curriculum areas. Some of our Senior Schooling staff will also be there to give you a snap shot of what senior curriculum may look like and answer any questions you might have about learning pathways that lead from Junior into Senior. This session will provide information about school staffing, curriculum and enrolment. We can’t wait to share with you some of the amazing teaching and learning happening at Blackwater State High. For any questions or queries please contact me via email ljett5@eq.edu.au or by phone 49869555.

The Blackwater North State School Choir and Concert Band will be competing at the Central Highlands Eisteddfod on Thursday 8 September.

Participating students have been given a permission note to take home. Please check the letter for details of the event.

Competing in Eisteddfods not only enables the students to showcase their talents, but allows them to network with other schools and they also promote a strong sense of pride, love and knowledge of music.

P & C NEWS

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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: 0437239084 (Pengana) 0403137309

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