Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back! What a positive start to the year we have had. All classrooms are calm and routines are being set in place. All teachers have soundly set the expectations for a great year and our students are already meeting this. Here’s to a fantastic 2015!

**New Staff**

I would also like to welcome the following new staff to our school:
- Miss Christine Bruce Prep
- Miss Bridget Bolger Year 1
- Mrs Janelle Denman Year 1
- Mrs Laurelle Burnett Year 2
- Mrs Sarah Vink Year 3
- Mrs Jade Mackay Year 3
- Mrs Sally Martel Year 4
- Miss Tegan Collon Year 6
- Mrs Abby Green Literacy Head of Dept (cluster)

**Staff Role Changes**

The following staff have stepped into other roles within the school:
- Mrs Joye Beath Acting Deputy Principal
- Mrs Frances Roberts Acting Head of Curriculum
- Mrs Kirri Freihofner Master Teacher
- Mrs Alison Gray Intervention

**Focus for 2015**

Over the last 2 years, we have been focusing on improving our academic performance to envision our vision statement – **BUILDING FOUNDATIONS + SUSTAINING GAINS = MORE OPPORTUNITIES.**

This will continue to be our number one focus but we will also be focusing on Student Welfare, especially behaviour within our school and Attendance. Last year, staff reviewed our behaviour policy and co-produced a common understanding of how positive behaviour will be encouraged within our school and how we will support students having difficulty. This review has allowed for the positive start to our school year. We will also be participating in a project called Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) which will apply a research based approach to behaviour within our school. The team developing this consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Class Teachers, Head of Special Education and a parent representative. More information regarding this will become available in the coming weeks. Our first actions will be the availability each week of our Behaviour Focus of the Week – see the Deputy Principal’s section of the newsletter and our school sign each week and we will be reviewing our Reward System for positive behaviour – A+ Day and restructuring this towards a tiered system of reward for ALL students. Look out for a feedback letter in the next few weeks. Also in the next two weeks, all families will receive a brochure that outlines how behaviour is supported within our school. This will then become part of our enrolment package. Finally, Attendance – our region sets a target of school attendance to be above 92.2% of all students. Last year we achieved 90.6% attendance – close but not close enough. As the more days a student has off each year compounds over the child’s 13 years of schooling. Each week on parade, we will be reflecting on this goal and our current percent will be displayed in the hall. We will also be celebrating the Year Level that has the highest attendance for the week. And keep an eye on the Deputy Principal’s section of the newsletter for more information regarding attendance. We will also be focusing on unexplained absences and we aim to reduce the number of these we receive each week. So, if your child has been absent and no reason has been supplied, you will receive a letter in the mail asking you to supply a reason and return to the school as soon as possible.

Until next time
Marie
We are very excited about a new year in the Library. We have had a few staffing changes in the Library this year as Mrs Fenner retired at the end of last year and Mrs Haebich moved back to the Gold Coast. Mrs Kronk is our new Teacher Librarian and Mrs Christmas will be the Teacher Aide working in the Library. We are very busy, as we’ve had lots of new books arrive that need to be catalogued and covered so that we can read them soon. Mrs Barnicoat has also been working hard to help us get organised for the year before she starts working on classes next week.

Read With Me Club House Points
The Read With Me club house points will start again from zero this year so that all houses have an equal chance of winning the trophy. All students are encouraged to hand in their read with me club forms to help their team to win at the end of the year. Read with Me Club sheets will be handed out during class library time this week.

Library Borrowing
Library borrowing started this week. Please take note of what day your child has Library lessons and remember to send their library book in a library bag. Students will not be allowed to borrow books if they don’t have a library bag to protect the books. If you have any overdue books at home, please return them. Notes will be sent home this week regarding books that are still overdue from last year.

Keep on reading,
Library Staff
TUCKSHOP NEEDS HELPERS!!
Please, if you can spare any amount of time, consider volunteering in the School’s Tuckshop - they are desperately in need of assistance. An hour or two; perhaps a morning or afternoon; one day a week or month??

*It will be appreciated.*
Please see the lovely ladies in the Tuckshop if you wish to help.

SPORT: SIGN ON DAYS

BLACKWATER SCOUT GROUP
SIGN-ON

SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY
WOOLWORTHS CAR PARK

9AM SAUSAGE SIZZLE
10AM-2PM SIGN ON FOR YOUTHS 6-18YRS

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR ADULTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING LEADERS

COME PLAY BASKETBALL!!
BLACKWATER BLAZERS SIGN ON DAY

When: 18 February 2015
Time: 3:30 til 5:30pm
Where: At Blackwater PCYC Basketball courts
Who: All school aged children
Cost: $60 for first term - this includes a training singlet and membership for the PCYC and all training sessions for term 1 (all subsequent terms will be $30 per term)

Sign On packs can be collected from the PCYC as of 13 February

Blackwater Junior Netball
FOR 5-16 YEARS
SIGN ON DAYS:
TUESDAY
17 & 24 FEBRUARY
AT HUNTER STREET
NETBALL COURTS
FROM 4PM

FOR MORE INFO CALL 0428861145

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

A big North School WELCOME to three of our new teachers this year - Mrs Laurelle Burnett (2A), Mrs Sarah Vink (3A) and Mrs Janelle Denman (1B). Look out for more photos of our newest staff members in the coming weeks.

JUST A REMINDER THAT IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PURCHASED WHITEBOARD MARKERS FOR YOUR CHILD THE PREFERRED MARKERS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE FOR $14.40 (PACK OF 12).
Mineworkers Club BLACKWATER

Open 7 Days

Bistro Open for Lunch & Dinner

For all of your Hardware needs
Come and see our friendly staff

Phone: 49861266

Lil Birdeez Photography

Contact Karen Bird
0439085698
kazza.bird@hotmail.com
Lil Birdeez Photography
Capturing a moment in time… to last forever

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

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BLUESWATER 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)

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Blackwater Hardware

4 Littlefield Street
Blackwater Q 4717

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