Dear Parents and Caregivers

New Friendship Award
This Week saw us kick start our new Friendship award. This week students will be exposed to how to fill out the award nomination as I will be walking around demonstrating this. This award is to acknowledge those students being accepting of others. These nominations can come from students or teachers. The purpose of this award is to reduce those incidents where students maybe not so accepting of others, or are being mean or hurtful, which can sometimes lead to bullying. Personally I feel this will be a great initiative, and I also want to thank the parent who has kindly donated two $50 vouchers to be spent at our local sports store, as the prize for this award. At the end of each month on parade we will draw out a boy and a girl who have been nominated for this FRIENDSHIP award.

What’s happening in the classrooms?
Curriculum, planning and assessment.
This term I have made some pleasing changes to curriculum and assessment in our process. In week two this term we had John Fry (Principal Education Advisor- Curriculum) visit. John presented to the staff on how to use the C2C (Curriculum into the Classroom) assessment task to help improve the efficiency of teachers’ planning and assessment. Below I have written some points in regards to the process we are working towards. Please keep in mind this is a working progress and teachers are at different stages of this.

1. Highlight the statements in the Achievement Standard you are working towards and set that as your point of reference
2. Print off the Assessment Task from Australian curriculum and C2C and Guide to Making Judgements that you will use to collect evidence for the Achievement Standard
3. Decide on the key concepts/skills/levels of literacy and Higher Order Thinking needed to be taught to reach that point of reference (benchmark)
4. Re-design the lesson sequence in OneSchool or in school planning template to fit your teaching context and student needs
5. Record differentiation which reflects teaching context/resources and student needs, while considering student’s curriculum entitlement (i.e working towards the same Achievement Standard and content, unless there is an ICP in place – use the other forms of differentiation: process, product and environment)

Uniform Letter
This week we sent out a letter on behalf of the P&C in regards to changes to the school uniform shirt. Just a reminder that feedback or opinions are due back this Friday 7th August. If you have still not voiced your opinion please feel free to contact myself at the school, Michelle McRae 0408 303 355 or Sabina Christensen 0438 178 312.

Naplan Results
Naplan results were delivered to the school yesterday, for students in years 3 and 5. These will be sent home this week on Friday. If any parents/caregivers have any concerns in regards to the Naplan results, please feel free to contact me.

Photos on Facebook
We remind parents that photographs taken at school activities cannot be reproduced onfacebook without the permission of the parents of all students in the picture. Students at our school have specific media permissions and they do not include social media.

Until next week, Damien.
Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
Hi everyone of Blackwater North State School community! My name is Paul Hilder, and I feel very fortunate to be teaching class 1B for Term 3. What a great bunch of young minds we have! We’ve been extremely busy so far this term enhancing our writing, reading, spelling, numeracy, as well as scientific and historical investigation skills! (That’s a mouthful, I know! But that’s the busy curriculum of today’s year 1 student!).

In English, the 1B kids have been enthusiastically learning how to study characters of children’s fiction texts, including writing sentences about; how characters look, how they act/behave, what motivations/feelings the characters have to act in a particular way, and character traits. Assessment coming up next week!

In Maths, we’ve covered a range of addition and subtraction strategies that children may draw upon and can be used in everyday life. If you visit the foyer this week, you’ll see some examples of the children’s ‘spider charts’ displaying some of the counting on/back strategies, number lines and picture methods, tens frames, and part-part-whole boxes, as well as some great photos of the children using physical materials in practical ways. 2D shapes this week!

In Science, we’ve been investigating changes in the landscape and sky around the school, which includes observing changes in a great garden area next to our block (thanks to Miss. Cutler’s year 1C class). We’ve been identifying and classifying items found around the school which are man-made or natural. You can see this on display in the classroom. Fantastic predictions and observations abound!

In History, we’ve been learning interviewing skills as well as investigating similarities and differences in families and people’s lives in past decades compared to today. This has included some homework where children have been asking questions about the past of older significant people and their responses have been very interesting indeed. We are looking forward to welcoming some visits from older family or friends of the children so the children can offer them some interview questions to learn about the contrast between the past and the present.

In extra-curricular terms, with the fete coming up before too long, it is very exciting that 1B will be holding the ‘Party in a Wheelbarrow’ raffle! If anyone would like to support BNSS through this raffle, donations of grocery or bottled items are welcome and can be brought directly to the 1B classroom.

Happy Learning!

Regards,
Paul Hilder

**1B NEWS**

- Thought of the Week
  “It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.” Albert Einstein, 1879-1955, Physicist

- Fun With Maths
  “Using both sides of your brain, you have twice as much fun”

  “Fun With Maths” is a presentation of colourful, educational activities that are drawn from life challenges that need maths strategies to solve. This week we’ve had all classes having fun with mathematical games! One teacher’s comment was; “Students were interested and excited about the activities. They enjoyed the challenging and hands on nature of the activities. Just keep on coming back.”

  Here’s 5 ways you can promote effective maths learning at home:
  - Use ‘hands-on’ practical materials - put my change into piles of $1, etc. and count it up
  - Our activities are learner centred - so you want new shoes, lets size your feet!
  - Use a real-life context - I have $20 what can I buy for my friend and I at the shops?
  - PLAY: promotes problem solving, critical thinking, concept formation, creativity skills with social and emotional developments.
  - Work with the whole family to develop co-operative team work - how are we going to put this new dresser together?

- Behaviour Buzz of the Week
  This week, we explore another of our school values … **safety**, I am where I’m meant to be, I take turns, I walk on concrete and I follow adult instructions.

- Behaviour Awards this Fortnight:
  **Week 3:**
  - Prep - 2: Poppy 4B, Deegan 6A
  - Years 3-6: Our Weekly Attendance Statistics
    Last week our ‘Every Day Counts’ Champions were PB and 5A with 94% attendance - good job.

- CENTRAL HIGHLANDS EISTEDDFOD
  The Central Highlands Eisteddfod for 2015, hosted by Blackwater, is fast approaching! 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. The talented Blackwater North choirs, band, duet groups and soloists have been busily rehearsing to be ready by the 17th, 18th and 19th of August.

  We are desperately seeking volunteers to help out at the Blackwater North State School Hall over the three days. There are some specific roles that need to be filled in order to ensure the smooth running of the events over the three days.

- Ushers - Direct people and competitors to certain areas of the Hall, assist in moving repositioning the stage/equipment if required.

- Scribe/s - help organise the adjudicator, write competitor names,numbers on forms, fill out certificates.

- Master of Ceremonies - Announce events, competitors, various messages during the day.

- Music and Audio - Cue up backing tracks for competitors, adjust volume if needed.

- If you are able to help for any amount of time over the three days, please let the Blackwater North State School office know at your earliest convenience. Even if you can only donate an hour of your time, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the Arts in the Central Highlands.

**Blackwater Junior Cricket Sign On Day**
Thursday 27 August 2015
4pm to 5pm
At Hunter Street Cricket Nets (beside the Rugby Union Clubhouse)
8 to 15 years old
Both boys and girls are welcome
Any questions please call Melissa Newman on 0409825478 or Email: blackwaterbilbies@outlook.com
Woolworths Earn and Learn is back and it is now easier than ever to earn valuable resources for your school. Last year more than 14,500 schools and Early Learning Centres benefited from the program, boosting supplies in Classrooms, Libraries, Music Rooms, Gymnasiums and Science Labs.

It’s simple to participate. From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September 2015, when you shop at Woolworths you can collect Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers from the checkout operator or through an online order and place them on a Woolworths Earn and Learn Sticker Sheet. There’ll be one Woolworths Earn and Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco, and gift cards). Once completed, simply place the Sticker Sheet in the Collection Box, in our front Office or at your local Woolworths.

Girl Life is a fun and practical program that helps to give girls knowledge and skills on how to be healthy on the inside and out. Using the program “MY LIFE RULZ” it provides some tools to build emotional and mental resilience into their lives before going to high school.

In our second Girl Life we had guest speaker Jade Scutt come and teach us about staying healthy on the outside by taking care of our nails. We all did a manicure which included cleaning, soaking, filing and polishing our nails.

Our second my life rule is “Comparing ourselves to others is out of bounds in my thoughts”. We learnt that when we compare ourselves to others we put a high or low value on people or ourselves and this can cause us to think, feel and act a certain way towards ourselves or others. We learn that we should put the same value on everyone. We learnt a saying that said, “He or She that looks around the room isn’t wise.”

Here are some of the truth coaches about comparison that you can reinforce with your family to help family members to think and respond in a healthy way. A great way to help your family develop healthy thinking is to debrief each night around the dinner table about the day’s events. Use this opportunity to listen to each other’s days and bring the right perspective on life to your children. This is often the most valuable moments together as a family.

In our third session at Girl Life Jade returned to teach us about staying healthy on the outside by taking care of our skin. We all did a facial which included cleansing our face, exfoliating using a scrub, we put on a clay mask and cucumbers on our eyes and relaxed for a while. We scrubbed, toned and moisturised. Our skin felt so soft and clean after our facial. Our skin was glowing.

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Our third my life rule is “I matter, I’m okay and so are others”. We learnt that it is not what we look like and what we can or cannot do that makes us valuable. It’s the fact that we are unique. No-one else is like us, no one else has our gifts, talents, personalities or looks. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. There will never ever be anyone else like us ever. That makes us really special. We matter and so does every one else.

Here are some of the truth coaches about value that you can reinforce with your family.

ELIZA’S COTTAGE CRAFTS FAIR

STALL HOLDERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON SATURDAY 15 AUGUST FROM 9AM—3PM

AT Blackwater International Coal Centre

Inside tables available $15
Outside sites are BYO tents/chairs/tables $15

Please note that food to be consumed on the day is provided by the BICC Cafe. Other food stalls must be Take Away only, as per the regulations.

Enquiries and bookings
Carolyn Dellar mob. 0428 825 029
Or myfcsteve@hotmail.com

TICKS are prevalent in our school again. Please check your children thoroughly as the ticks are very small. They like to hide behind ears, under armpits and near the hair line. It has been suggested that spraying insect repellent around shoes and socks can prevent them from climbing up.

GIRL LIFE - WEEKS 2 & 3: NAILS AND SKINCARE

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Here are some of the truth coaches about value that you can reinforce with your family.

I am okay even if I am not good at sport or get high marks.
People’s words and actions can hurt me but it doesn’t mean that I’m not okay or that I don’t matter.
I am acceptable without being perfect.
Everyone is valuable even if I don’t like them, so I can treat them how I would like to be treated.
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: 043739084 (Pengana) 0403137309 (Mysa)