Dear Parents and Caregivers

CHANGE and DATA
As you could imagine, in education data is of huge importance to us - whether it be attendance, student work, reading levels, writing scores, spelling tests etc.

When I first arrived at Blackwater North SS I observed that teachers were creating their own assessment tasks - thus taking away from the teaching, allowing for inconsistencies in curriculum planning, delivery and assessment across the school. As an acting Principal you are sometimes not sure whether to make changes or not, but in this case we could not continue on the same journey. I supported and worked closely with the Head Of Curriculum, so she could lead teachers in the implementation of a Whole School Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Framework. By going back to ACARA and C2C it ensured that all students were receiving mandatory curriculum and teachers' pedagogy was effective and consistent.

When making a huge change like this it was great to see the data from our students achievement from Semester 1 2015 to Semester 2 2015, as this was when the change occurred.

Below I want to share the data I received as it shows that more students % at Blackwater North SS are receiving C or better in their achievement for English and Maths, and even better, a larger % of students achieving A or B. The six different rows correspond with Year levels.

One reason for this data improvement is that teachers are no longer creating their own assessment tasks, and can spend more time on what makes THE difference and that is “The Pedagogy or TEACHING”. If you recall my piece from our last newsletter regarding reduced class size vs quality teaching, you always take the quality teaching!

GREAT WORK TEACHERS and STUDENTS!

Until next time, Damien

Building Foundations + Sustaining Gains = More Opportunities
**LIBRARY NEWS**

**State of Origin**
Last Wednesday night's first State of Origin match had us somewhat divided in the library. There were a few students supporting the New South Wales blues while majority of students had their hearts backing the Queensland cane toads. Roxy even showed her support wearing Mrs Hayes' maroon jersey and we think she’s been using her library magic to play football at night as she had her footy boots on last week too!! Students made mosaic footballs in lunchtime craft last week; pop in and check them out.

**Dewey Decimal System**
Our older classes have been learning our CME Web Search tool over the last few weeks and this week had to utilise these skills to delve further into the Non Fiction shelves, familiarising themselves with the Dewey Decimal codes. Melvil Dewey developed this amazing organisational tool and students were made aware of this when they watched the Dewey Decimal Rap in lessons this week. It was fun to see the students enjoying themselves when searching different topics and learning more about the sensational variety of books we are lucky enough to house in our library.

**Best Borrowing Class**
In amazing news this week, we have some best borrowers that are not new!! Whilst the preps have been major contenders, they have been knocked off top spot.

Congratulations goes to:
3A and Mrs Mackay, our week 8 winners and 1B and Mrs Weller, our week 9 winners!

We trust you will enjoy your prize when you collect it next week!!

**Read With Me Club – 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.

A huge congratulations to our ticket winners!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Week 8</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick 1C</td>
<td>Caleb 1C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regan 4A</td>
<td>Trishelle 4A</td>
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**Readers Cup Challenge**
Next Friday, June 17, Mrs Hayes will be accompanying our Readers cup team to the Emerald State School library where they will compete against other schools in a reading challenge. Our Blackwater North team, the ‘Northern Scorpion Readers’ have been working hard in their own time to read the set booklist and have been meeting to discuss the theme and inner workings of these books. They have enjoyed the challenge and are looking forward to the competition next week.

Please get behind these students: Shanleigh Carey, Jarrod Meadows, Dylan Petty, Max Power and Ninekupoiyeh Moore, and wish them the best of luck next week.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**
You can play a big part in your children's future by encouraging them to be part of this positive initiative. Mrs Hayes still has plenty of forms in the library for those wanting to participate.

**PARENTING TIPS FOR ANXIOUS KIDS:**

**Expectations of your child:**
It’s important that you have the same expectations of your anxious child that you would of another child (go to birthday parties etc). However, understand that the pace will need to be slower and there is a process involved in meeting this end goal. You can help your child break up the task into smaller steps so they are achievable.

**Build your child’s personal strength:**
It is important to praise your child for facing challenges such as trying something new or showing brave behaviours.

**Letting your child learn to do things on his/her own:**
While tempting, it is best to not take over doing things for your child. Whist this might make them feel better, the message you are sending out to your child is that you don’t believe they can do it. Positive reinforcement will make your child feel proud of their achievements.

**Helping your child handle his/her own feelings:**
It is okay to let your child experience some anxiety. You child needs to know that anxiety is not dangerous but something they can cope with. You can let your child know all feelings are okay and it is right to say what you feel. Anxious children sometimes have a hard time expressing strong emotions like anger or sadness because they are afraid people will get angry with them.

**Passing on your fears:**
Try to keep your fears to yourself. Let them know that it is safe to explore.

**Working together as parents:**
It is important to work with your spouse (if separated, try to be on the same page so children can have consistency. Parents need to agree upon a way of handling your child’s anxiety that will work for everyone. It is not helpful to have one parent who is “too easy” and the other who “pushes the child too much”. This is very confusing for your child.

**Consequences:**
Don’t confuse anxiety with other types of inappropriate behaviour. It is very important to set both expectations and have limits and consequences for inappropriate behaviour. Parents who have reasonable expectations of their children with clear, consistent limits and consequences for behaviour, along with love and acceptance have the most competent, self-confident and happy children.

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**DEPUTY DIRECTIONS with Sara**

**Robots Invade Blackwater North**
Robots have arrived at Blackwater North State School. The recent purchase of EV3 robots has allowed our students to be introduced to STEM education in a fun and an inspiring way whilst at the same time extending their problem solving skills. With the expertise of an engineer, Roland Du Toit provided by THEISS assisting, students are solving challenges through writing programmes on computers to operate the robot. By adding sensors, we are going to investigate reactions to light and colours. We can play songs on them and make them dance.

**Under Eights’ Day**
Under Eights’ celebrations are being held in Blackwater at Rotary Park on Friday, 29 July from 9 am. Come along to enjoy free activities with your children. There will be painting, biscuit decorating, outdoor games and playdough to name just a few. All children aged 8 and under are invited to join in the fun in the park.

**A Plus Day**
A Plus Day will be celebrated on the last day of this term. Various exciting events are planned for year 1-6 children who are on Gold level of behaviour. Activities include skating, cooking and dancing.

I encourage parents to discuss with your children the level of behaviour their child is on and decide on what actions your child can do next term to ensure your child maintains or improves their behaviour level.

**Winter Clothing**
Please ensure your child’s winter clothing has his/her name written on it. We already have a large number of jumpers with no names on them in the lost property boxes.

**Early Arrival at School**
It is recommended that students do not arrive at school before 8 am. We understand there may be occasions when children will need to be at school before 8 am due to parent commitments, sports training, etc, however, some students are arriving as early as 7 am on a daily basis. This early start makes a very long day for your children.

Students arriving at school before 8:30 am are required to sit in the undercover area until the bell rings.
If your child requires staff to administer medication to them at school, please contact the school office in the first instance to discuss your child’s requirements. Please note, school staff will only administer medication that:

1. has been prescribed by a qualified health practitioner (e.g. doctor, dentist)
2. is in its original container
3. has an attached pharmacy label.

Office staff will ask you to complete and sign the Administration of medication at school record sheet. N.B. If your child requires more than one medication, you will need to complete a form for each medication.

Providing medication to the school

Check the expiry date to ensure it is in-date and there is enough for the agreed time period. It is also a good idea to take a note of the expiry date so that you can replace the medication before it expires (Asthma Medication).

Please note, school staff will not administer medication that you can buy over-the-counter at chemists and supermarkets (e.g. paracetamol, eye drops, cough syrup) unless it has been prescribed by your child’s qualified health practitioner. For example, the school would administer paracetamol to a student only if it has been prescribed by their dentist to be taken for a short time after dental treatment.

School staff are bound by these regulations and we hope that all parents will acknowledge and cooperate with these rules.

It is safer for all students if you can provide medication to the school in person (rather than send medication with the student). If you can’t provide the medication in person, contact the school to determine the easiest and safest approach for the school to receive the medication.

Thank you for assisting the school in keeping our students safe and healthy.

NAB AFL Auskick is the Australian Football League’s key introductory program for primary school-aged boys and girls and their families. Through our WEEKLY COACHING PROGRAM, you’ll learn the skills of the game through appropriately modified activities and rules, play plenty of fun games and football in a fun and safe environment, and make plenty of new friends too!

Come along and join the fun with your school friends learning a whole range of new skills, playing plenty of fun games, and getting kitted out with the latest Auskick sporting merchandise. This includes your very own Auskick Cooler Lunch Bag, footy, hat, pump, footy cards, 2016 Auskick essentials guide and weekly prizes.

COME AND TRY YOUR FIRST SESSION FOR FREE!
Blackwater North SS NAB AFL Auskick Centre
Sign on & 1st Session Monday the 18 July 2016
Time: 3:15pm-4:15pm (every Monday for 8 weeks)
Venue: Blackwater North SS School Oval
Cost: $75
For more information contact: Scott at AFL Qld Capricornia office on 4927 3432; 0404 986 543
Or visit www.aflauskick.com.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

Year 5/6C are busy this term working on Australian trade with Asia which is a quite topical amongst politicians and the media at the moment. This links nicely with their English which is all about exploring news reports.

Year 6’s will be visiting Blackwater High for their transition day on the 9th June and are quite excited.

MUSEUM KIT: We have a new display in the library this week on loan from the Queensland Museum. It is an Indigenous Australian Kit containing posters, books and artefacts. Some very interesting specimens have been included and are well worth a look.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We have recently been advised that the Chicken Pox Virus is circulating in the community. Whilst we have no reported cases at school at this stage we encourage parents to be vigilant.


5/6C NEWS

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The PCYC will no longer be selling lollies or soft drinks to school children prior to school finishing at 3PM.

5/6C NEWS

February 2016
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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