Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members;

As hard as it may be to believe we are now half way through Term 3. Our busy year continues to fly along with lots of activities taking place on a day to day basis at Blackwater SS.

Our School and Cluster Attendance strategy – 'Missing School is Missing Out' remains a regular topic for discussion and something that I refer to weekly at our school assembly. Whilst I understand we are currently experiencing a high degree of illness within the Blackwater community, it is important to keep in mind the impact that lack of attendance can have on student learning.

Currently our student attendance is at its lowest for 2015, our Year to Date student attendance is 87.7% and our Term 3 student attendance is 84.8%. With your continued support we can work together to improve our student attendance to our 2015 target of 90%. We thank parents who keep us informed of student absences on a daily basis, this way we ensure we have no unexplained absences from school.

Our 2015 NAPLAN data has recently arrived and we have been able to celebrate the hard work of our students and staff and the wonderful support we receive from parents and family members. Our initial analysis of the data shows us the following positive trends:

- Yr. 3 – Improvements in the percentage of students At or Above the National Minimum Standard in 4 of the 5 areas tested, i.e. improvements in Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar & Punctuation.
- Yr. 5 – Improvements in the percentage of students At or Above the National Minimum Standard in 3 of the 5 areas tested, i.e. improvements in Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation.

Individual Student NAPLAN reports were sent home last week so families can see where their children sit in regards to overall performance.

Our Executive Summary and Report from the Priority Support Review held at the end of Term 2 have recently arrived in the school. We look forward to developing our Action Plan and sharing this with the school community at P&C Meetings, via the Newsletter.

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 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.

Don’t forget next week we are hosting the Central Highlands Elstedfdod and we still require some volunteers to assist during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the school Hall. If you are able to assist please let the ladies at the Office know or see Miss Cooper – anticipating your co-operation.

Cheers
Rod Wood
Principal
Mutual Respect Award
Congratulations
Kiera Scales
& Ethan Richardson

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS EISTEDDFOD

The Central Highlands Eisteddfod for 2015, hosted by Blackwater, is fast approaching! This year’s Eisteddfod will be held at the Blackwater State School Hall. It is the region’s premiere avenue for performance and competition. It is also a means of encouraging cultural activities in the Central Highlands area, and is a non-profit organisation. Our choirs, band, 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 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 event over the three days.

Door Person — to collect gold coin donations of general public on arrival, to collect sheet music from competitors on arrival, distribute timetables to general public on arrival.

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

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

Master of Ceremonies — Announce events, competitions, 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 State School office know at your earliest convenience on 4986 0111. 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.

LIBRARY NEWS - 2015 BOOK WEEK

Dress up as your favourite Book Character. Book Week will be celebrated for the week beginning the 24th August—28th August. The aims of this celebration are to encourage children to read quality literature, to promote the publication of worthwhile material for children and to recognise the achievements of Australian writers and illustrators.

The theme for Book Week this year is “Light Up Our World”. Blackwater State School will be celebrating with displays, competitions, lunch time activities and a school dress-up as your favourite character parade on Tuesday 25th August.

Your School Banking day is WEDNESDAY

GIRLS LIFE

Week One Girl Life — The Gathering

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 first Girl Life session 36 year 6 girls gathered from around the district to celebrate the beginning of girl life 2015. Activities included table setting and manners, fancy serviette folding, cute cakes and savoury treats. Thanks to our special guest Mrs Kelly Hayes for making all the cakes and icing for our cute cake decorating activity and to Miss Bridget Bolger for all the preparation involving making savoury treats.

Our first weeks my life rule was “I belong here”. To belong, is one of the greatest human needs and is a foundation for emotional health. The knowledge that we belong to a community, gives us a sense of belonging and this is affirmed by adults who validate, nurture, affirm, love and connect with a child. A sense of belonging is a building block for our mind to be our friend, to be healthy and secure. It is important to remember that our sense of belonging should never be put in the hands of other people. We shouldn’t let others decide whether we fit in or not. It’s up to us to decide.

Here are some of the truth coaches about belonging that you can reinforce with your family to help family members to think and respond in a healthy way.

I belong on earth. I was created to live here.
Feeling different or being ignored doesn’t mean I don’t belong here. We are all different.
Being left out happens to everyone not just me.
I don’t need to always feel like I belong. Sometimes my feelings are not right.
I make the rules to decide whether I fit in or not. It’s for me to decide.
A new place can feel scary, but I still belong. I’m ok wherever I am.

Week Two Girl Life — Nails

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 Scott 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 each other. We learnt 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.”


Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Assembly 2.15pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th—19th August</td>
<td>Central Highlands Eisteddfod</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th August</td>
<td>Book Week Parade</td>
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Week Two Girl Life – Nails
Continued.....

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. Children are often great reporters of the day’s events but not the best interpreters. You as adults can help them interpret their experiences through an accurate lens.

There is only one of me.
There will never be another me, ever
Different doesn’t mean less. Different doesn’t mean more. It’s just different that’s all.
My body isn’t perfect and it doesn’t need to be.
Comparing myself to others will always make me miserable, so I won’t do it.
The real me lives inside my body and the real me decides if I’m okay or not.

Some people will tease me about my body but they are wrong and I won’t believe them.

Eliza’s Cottage Crafts

Blackwater

STALL HOLDERS are invited to join us for the...

2015

Eliza’s Cottage Crafts Fair

Saturday August 15th from 9 am to 3 pm
At the Blackwater International Coal Centre (BICC)
Coppingham Highway, Blackwater.

There will be inside tables available at $15 / table (1.8m long) and outside sites for tents/marquees/covers/tables/chairs.
Outside sites are $10 tents/chairs/stalls are at $15 for 3x3 m.

 Stall holders requiring a site, please contact Carolyn (below) with the size, as we need to plan the area before the day.

Please note that food to be consumed on the day is provided by the BICC Cafe.
Other food stalls must be Take Away only, no pet the regulations.

Please register participation with or direct queries to

Carolyn Dellar
Mobile 0418 829 029
Or email eatcrafts@xtra.co.nz

Sign up now if you would like to show and sell.
Love to see you there.

Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04 Jul</td>
<td>Nehemiah Malcolm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Jul</td>
<td>Rhys Haigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>08 Aug</td>
<td>Lani Partridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Aug</td>
<td>Jack Clayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Aug</td>
<td>Elizabeth King</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Aug</td>
<td>Malcolm Frame</td>
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</tbody>
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Workshops for Committees and Clubs

Please mark your calendar for the great opportunity returning to the Highlands this time in Rolleston and Blackwater. Dept Sport and Rec will be hosting a “Plan Your Club” and “Re-write your Constitution” workshops that have been conducted over the last few years in Emerald. People attending have always found them extremely useful. Whist it is advertised as “for your Club” it is ideal for any committee.

Blackwater
Date: Tuesday 27th October
Time: 6pm - 9pm Re-write your Constitution
Venue: Blackwater Civic Centre

The Department will commence advertising and calling for registrations soon. Please keep this date free as it is great that the workshops are being offered across the region. Leisa Donlan will be presenting the workshop and she has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Also by attending you can access her online material and also have some assistance with checking your amended Constitution.

chmfestival.com.au

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

22.08.15 1 5pm - 10pm
EMERALD SHOWGROUNDS

WORLD MUSIC / GLOBAL CUISINE
INTERNATIONAL BEER & WINE
KIDS ACTIVITIES / WORKSHOPS

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