Dear Parents,

Bluff Lions
Thank you to the Bluff Lions who have donated $200 towards a magazine subscription. We have used this money to purchase 3 Scientriffic magazine subscriptions for the next two years. This will allow us to have multiple copies for use in reading groups. Scientriffic is published every two months and is packed with science news, feature articles, hands-on experiments, comics, competitions and brain-bending puzzles. I know that the children (and staff) will find them fascinating and engaging.

Bullying No Way Day!
The 2014 National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence is on this Friday 21\textsuperscript{st} March. We are asking all students to come to school in as much orange as possible to show support for this event.

So what is bullying? The National Safe Schools Framework defines bullying as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies, e.g. the internet or mobile devices. Conflicts or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. In short, bullying is a repeated pattern of harmful verbal, physical or social behaviour which involves the misuse of power. Cyberbullying is bullying through the internet or mobile devices. For more information, please visit the following website: [http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/)

Playground use
Before school: All children should put their bags away and sit quietly at the table outside Miss I’s room until they line up at 8:25am.
After school: Please be aware that you must supervise your children if you are allowing them to play on the play forts after school. Before 8:30am and after 2:30pm, the school cannot provide supervision of the playgrounds and is therefore not responsible if an accident occurs. All responsibility for the safe and appropriate use of the playground equipment at this time is placed on the supervising parent. Any children that are seen playing without direct adult supervision will be asked to return to their parents. I ask all parents to please support us in this safety requirement. If students are using the equipment unsupervised we will need to ban all access outside of school hours.

Q Schools App
The free QSchools smartphone app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from and about schools. It allows users to see when news, events and newsletters are posted to their selected school website. Users can also see other useful information provided by the school, such as tuckshop menus, uniform shop information, class times and the school’s and the department’s social media feeds. The school community can also receive emergency announcements such as natural disasters and school closures through the app. The QSchools app is particularly useful to parents who have students in different schools, as the app manages updates from multiple schools.

Annual Student Leaders Regional Mayoral Summit
Today our two School Leaders are attending the Regional Mayoral Summit in Blackwater. They have been invited to attend this summit to observe and consider presentations delivered by councillors and other student representatives. This also offers them the opportunity to dine in a formal setting and experience etiquette expectations. I know that they will present themselves in a way that shows pride in our school and community.
P&C Annual General Meeting

What is a P&C Association?
A Parents and Citizens’ Association (P&C) is a group of community minded people, parents and citizens, who take on a more formal role to assist the school in providing:

- feedback on school policies and activities
- additional resources to be used to enhance student learning
- parents with opportunities to be involved in their child’s education.

Bluff State School’s P&C AGM is being held next Monday, 24 March from 2:45pm in my classroom (C Block). This is so that we can supervise the children by putting a movie on in the classroom.

Joining the P&C Association is a great way to keep informed, to contribute to the quality education of your children and to make new friends. Your contribution can be as large or small as you can manage, but your ongoing support of the P&C Association is invaluable. Not only will you be supporting the school community but you will be supported by the school community. You can learn new skills, and gain a clear understanding of how the school operates. This is a great opportunity to share in the school’s decision-making process and shape the future. Please see below for a description of the executive roles that will be appointed at the AGM on Monday 24th March.

Roles and Responsibilities

President
The president should:
- provide leadership
- act as a representative of the P&C
- ensure time is used effectively
- ensure decisions are made and followed up
- oversees accountability of the Association
- ensure everyone has a say
- manage dominant personalities
- foster good communication between the P&C, school and community
- encourage participation
- conduct meetings in an efficient and timely manner so that all members feel valued

Vice-President
The vice-president should:
- consider this position as the president’s understudy
- provide support and assistance to the president
- become familiar with P&C operations, rules and meeting procedures.

Secretary
The secretary should:
- maintain attendance records and a register of members including ex-officio and life members
- assist the president in preparing an agenda for each meeting
- collate agenda papers for each meeting (including subcommittee reports)
- prepare and present minutes of P&C and officers’ meetings at each general meeting
- record and deal with correspondence in/out as directed by the P&C
- generally organise, record and maintain information pertaining to the activities of the P&C
- have custody of P&C Association documents.

Treasurer
Treasurers must:
- comply with the Accounting Manual for P&C Associations
- prepare an annual budget for the P&C
- supply a financial statement at each meeting
- make all cheque books, deposit books and receipt books together with books of account, available to the auditor
- prepare annual statements, which must be audited and a copy forwarded to your DETE Regional Office.

P&C’s QLD Representative
The P&Cs Qld representative should:
- provide feedback to members and the executive at meetings
What's going on in the....

P-2 Classroom

The P-2 class have been very enthusiastic this week as we continue to work our way through our units and begin preparing for assessment. Our budding scientists drew their own unhealthy habitats and suggested a way to improve this environment. We are looking at lifecycles and how the living thing changes, grows and the way in which it’s needs alter and are catered for. In History, we have started part 1 of assessment which involves students sequencing and explaining important life events.

Prep students have worked through some time activities this week. Prep students will benefit from counting objects at home and practising their number writing. Year 1 and 2 students have been learning and reinforcing their mental addition strategies and working through some partitioning of numbers. Year 1 & 2 students will be moving onto time before we all briefly move through measurement.

Students are very enthusiastic about our persuasive unit. We are working on constructing texts now to persuade different audiences. This will lead students into their English assessment over the next few weeks.

Over the next few weeks please pop in to see our awesome artwork. Students have been learning about colour wheels, primary and secondary colours and will be moving onto learning about warm and cool colours by the end of the term. As students complete all the colour activities, their work will be displayed in our room and in the office.

3-6 Classroom

All students have been doing a fantastic job with their persuasive writing. They certainly know how to pull at your heart strings to get what they want! Some children have also been very creative in the way they are stretching the truth and including some data facts to make their argument appear more convincing. We have spent the last week learning what a paragraph and topic sentence is. This week we will be writing introductions using modal verbs and rhetorical questions.
The year 5/6 students have been working on data and ways to represent it. They have done pie graphs, line graphs and bar graphs. They will be using their skills this week to create an attendance graph for the whole school. The 3/4 students have been doing a lot of subtraction with trading. They are getting quite good at it and can working with numbers in the hundred thousands. The next step is doing subtraction as a vertical algorithm with 0’s in the top number.

In Science, we have been looking at camouflaged animals and why animals develop specific adaptations. It is very interesting and we have found that it can be difficult to find a camouflaged animal in its environment.

The behaviour of all students in the 3 – 6 classroom during learning time is outstanding. We get through a lot more work when all children are engaged and eager to learn.

Please remember to keep practicing those times tables 😊

Students of the Week

Pacey always participates in classroom activities and always works well. Bailey worked well in maths to achieve great results. Preston’s being a responsible and reliable Student Council member. Koda is an enthusiastic and hardworking student. Congratulations! Keep up the fabulous work!

Student Council News:

Our “Guess the number of Easter eggs” competition began this morning. SC members will be outside Miss I’s room before and after school each day, ready to take your best guess! The number of guesses you make is only limited by how much money you are willing to spend. Guesses are $1 each and can be made right up to Friday 28th March.

This Tuesday is our Funky Hair Day. Remember to come to school with your craziest hair, $2 each and your permission note if you would like to add coloured hairspray to your amazing do! All money raised will be donated to the Leukaemia Foundation.

Student Council will also be purchasing some new sand toys and sports equipment for the school this year.
Don’t forget to grab a copy of the morning bulletin and drop the iPad vouchers in! We would love to win 10 iPads for our students!
NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

28th March - 6th April

29th March
NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK OPENING CONCERT
Featuring
The Collective
$15
Blackwater Civic Centre
7pm to 9:30pm
Limited tickets on sale 17/3/14 from 3:30pm

30th March
LASER SKIRMISH
$5
Sessions: 10am, 2pm, 6pm
Blackwater High School
Limited tickets on sale 17/3/14 from 3:30pm

5th - 6th April
MARVEL MOVIE MARATHON
Free
Blackwater PCYC
6pm Saturday to 1am Sunday

Tickets and Info at Central Highlands Regional Council
Blackwater and Emerald Offices or on 1300 242 686
All events are Drug and Alcohol Free. Events open to persons 8 years of age or younger.
www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au