Dear Parents,

Uniform Policy
Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback regarding the changes to the uniform policy. The implementation of skorts and a winter uniform have been overwhelmingly positive. Skorts are now available from the uniform shop at a cost of $15 each. In order to smarten up our uniform and ensure consistency, these are the only skorts that the children will be permitted to wear from Term 2. Also, from Term 2, children are only permitted to wear black pants/track pants/leggings/stockings in winter. They must also be wearing a black jumper/jacket. No hoodies will be allowed as these are too casual and distracting in class. We want the community to see the pride that we take in our school. Please also remember that shorts/pants should not have logos on them. Uniform slips for incorrect uniforms will start going home in Term 2. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is wearing the correct uniform.

P&C Annual General Meeting
Thank you to the parents who attended the P&C AGM on Monday afternoon. On behalf of the school, I would like to say a very sincere “Thank you” to our outgoing committee members from 2013. Thank you to Alison Wood for her work as the P&C President in 2013. Thank you to Lisa Cook for her work as Secretary in 2013. And finally, thank you to Georgina Clarke who has stood down as Tuckshop convener after many years in the position. All your hard work has certainly been appreciated over the years.

I would now like to introduce you to our P&C executives for 2014.

❖ President: Kristy McLaughlin
❖ Vice-president: Adell Dau
❖ Secretary: Sam Conway
❖ Treasurer: Jo Jaques
❖ Tuckshop Convener: Megan Emzin

Fundraising Committee
❖ Chair: Heidi Smith
❖ Secretary: Tanya Dickens
❖ Treasurer: Jo Jaques

Thank you for accepting these roles and I am looking forward to working with you in 2014.

New Staff Members
This term we have welcomed three new staff to our teaching team. Please introduce yourself if you see them around the school.

Mrs Bronwen Day – Teaches the 3-6 class on Fridays.
Mrs Bronwen Day absolutely loves her Fridays at Bluff SS, taking the year 3 – 6’s. She comes to the school with 30 years of teaching experience, originally beginning her career in the Pilbara, WA, taking high school art and social science. In Queensland, she has taught at Moranbah, the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Moura….. but we know she loves Bluff the best!

Miss Helen Cooper – Teaches music on Mondays and does intervention and support on Wednesdays.
Miss Cooper is very excited to be teaching at Bluff SS and has had lots of fun teaching music so far this year. Before coming here, Miss Cooper taught music for 6 years in Ipswich. Miss Cooper teaches ukuleles and glockenspiels in music lessons instead of the recorder (because recorders drive her crazy!)
Miss Adell Dau – Teacher Aide for intervention and support on Thursdays.
Miss Adell Dau is a teacher’s aide helping in the upper class. She is an experienced teacher’s aide and has worked in small schools in Ravenswood, North Queensland and Russel Island. Miss Dau has always enjoyed working with children and meeting new and interesting people.

Swimming Fun Day
Unfortunately, due to the weather last week, we had to cancel our swimming demonstrations and games at the pool in Blackwater. We will make this up in Term 4.

iPad Tokens
Today, Monday 31st, is the final day for bringing in the tokens from The Morning Bulletin. Thank you to the school families and community members for supporting our school. Fingers crossed we have enough!

High Five!
At Bluff State School we encourage our students to take responsibility for their actions. We use the following strategy to ensure positive play.

1. Talk friendly – Speak friendly, “Stop it. I don’t like it.”
2. Talk firmly – Speak firmly, “Stop it! I don’t like it!”
3. Ignore
4. Walk away
5. Report to a teacher

If it is something physical, then children are told to report it to a teacher immediately.

We were fortunate to have some NRL players visit our school on Monday. They discussed the 5 steps to dealing with bullying and took the children out for a game. They also donated some balls, markers and footy tipping prizes to the school. We are very grateful for their visit to our school.

Excursion to Bluff Train Station
This Friday, 4th April we will be venturing across the Capricorn Highway to the Bluff Train Station. Many of the students at Bluff State School have a family member that work at the Bluff Train Station. Therefore, it is fitting that we visit local places in our community so that the children can acquire a greater understanding of the day to day happenings in Bluff. We will be shown around the station, experience a train simulator and have a talk about train safety. Please ensure that permission forms are returned to school early this week. Thank you to Lex and Jason for allowing us to visit and showing us around on the day.

New cybersafety website
The Meet the creeps cybersafety website helps parents and students become aware of online scams, social media pitfalls and cyberbullying. The joint Telstra and Queensland Government project aims to equip middle school students with the skills to keep safe online. Crackers the clown and Shifty Shane are just two of the characters you will meet in a new interactive quiz designed to highlight potential online dangers.

Thank you to:
- Georgina (and Curtis) for spending a day cleaning out our art room. It looks great and everything is so easy to find now.
- Heidi for organising some Easter cooking this week.

Easter Bonnet Parade
We will be having a whole school Easter Bonnet Parade this year. As Easter falls on the other side of the holidays, we will be doing our parade on the first day of Term 2. The children will need to make their bonnets over the holidays and we will model them on Tuesday, 22nd April from 2:10pm on parade.
As you read this newsletter, all students are working their way through a variety of assessment tasks. Some tasks have been completed over the past week, with our Maths, English and other tasks being concluded this week. Please ensure that your child has had a good night’s sleep and a healthy breakfast before coming to school, to assist them in being ready for assessment.

In English, we have been finishing off our persuasive unit with revision and practise assessment showing that students have understood and can generally use the concept accurately. In Maths, Prep students have finished their work on patterns and are now moving onto positional language and revision of taught concepts. Year 1 and 2 students have completed their units on addition and subtraction, calendar and time, and are completing their work on data this week.

Students will not have homework this week or the first week back of term. Starting week 2 of term 2 prep students will also have homework. Please keep an eye out for more information on this.

Over holidays, please encourage your child to keep reading (or read to your child) and continue to ask them questions. Prep parents, you can help your child to retain skills and knowledge by saying the alphabet and letter sounds (in order and out of order) and working on counting and number writing. Have a fantastic holiday and stay safe!
As the end of term quickly approaches, it is important that we take time out to reflect on what the students have learnt. These were the children’s responses to what they have learnt and enjoyed this term:

Latoya: We drew animals with adaptations for different environments.
Tyler: I learnt my times tables.
Lexy: We have learnt how to do problem solving and show working out.
Preston: I’ve learnt how to do the finger trick for 9 times tables.
Mia: I have learnt about persuasive texts.
Bailey J: We did an abstract picture.
Rowdy: I am enjoying maths mentals.
Wyatt: I have learnt more about the history of Australia.
Sam: I have learnt how to collect data and do line graphs.
Charli: I’ve learnt how to argue my point of view.
Rory: We were told an ANZAC Day story about who was in the war and what they did.
Will: I learnt how to make fantasy animals.
Bailey O: I did data and graphing in maths.
Brock: We have written narrative stories.
Clay: I enjoy reading in a group and by myself.
Liam: I learnt how to sing the family song in Japanese.

Rowdy has been really enthusiastic about learning this week. Lane has also displayed enthusiasm which has resulted in some fantastic hard work. Mia has been working hard in maths lessons and has showed great effort with problem solving. Levi has also been doing some awesome math work.

Congratulations! Keep up the fabulous work!
Thankyou to everyone who participated in our Funky Hair Day! Everyone looked awesome and had a great day! In total, $169 was raised for the Leukaemia Foundation. A special thankyou to Mrs Day for her fantastic contribution to the cause!

Everyone is getting behind our “Guess the Egg” Competition. Our final day for registering a guess was Friday. Good luck and thankyou to everyone who has made a guess. The winner will be announced on Tuesday’s parade.

Student Council has decided, upon the request of our music teacher, Miss Cooper, to purchase 10 ukuleles for use in Music. Student Council is very eager to purchase equipment across the school this year and it is great to see this generosity spread across many school areas. Stay tuned for the purchasing of this equipment throughout the year.

Experience Blackwater State High School Open Day

Open Day provides a wonderful opportunity to experience the progressive and successful Blackwater State High School.

Join us for a rich programme of events, talk with students and staff, enjoy performances, view academic and co-curricular displays and tour the School’s facilities. Come and experience the diversity and vibrancy of our School community. Open Day 2014 will be held on Wednesday, 30 April commencing in the Blackwater State High School library.

Open Day features many activities taking place throughout the evening including the opportunity to observe teaching and learning. Appointments for all activities can be made on our online booking system which can be accessed at www.sobs.com.au (if you are unable to access this site, please contact the school via phone to arrange an appointment).

It is an ideal time to experience the vibrancy and diversity of the Blackwater State High School community. Programme Highlights are outlined in the timetable below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30-3:00pm</td>
<td>View lessons and tour the schools facilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Engineering &amp; Furniture Making (Mr Nathan Prior &amp; Mr Greg Collins)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Health and Physical Education (Mr Stan Vipen)</td>
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<td>3. 9 Math (Mrs Leigh Sharpe)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. 10 Science (Miss Tamika Magometovs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15pm</td>
<td>Sausage Sizzle (student council)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00-4:15pm</td>
<td>Student performances (library) including drama, singing, instrumental music and comedy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30-4:50pm</td>
<td>Information session: ‘Dreaded Homework!’ – The ‘why’ and ‘how’ of homework.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00-5:15pm</td>
<td>School tour of facilities</td>
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For further information please contact Deputy Principal, Dorothea Jensen on 4986 9555.
Supporting Bluff State School in 2014
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 8am

30th March
LASER SKIRMISH

$5
Sessions: 10am, 2pm, 6pm
Blackwater High School
Limited tickets on sale 17/3/14 from 8am

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

Tickets and Info at Central Highlands Regional Council
Blackwater and Emerald Offices or on 1300 242 211
All events are Drug and Alcohol Free. Events open to persons 8 years of age or younger.
www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au