Dear Parents,

Welcome everyone to the 2016 school year. Firstly I would like to thank everyone for their support in ensuring an easy transition into Bluff State School and wider community. I look forward to working with everyone to ensure our students’ educational needs are being achieved and results maximised. If at any stage you would like to discuss your child/ren's learning, please don’t hesitate to arrange a suitable time.

About Me: As many of you may already be aware, I grew up in Kilkivan and completed my university studies at Rockhampton. I have been working in Education for the past 10 years in various locations including England. Majority of the schools I have worked in have been multi-age small schools. For the past 5 years I was working in Thargomindah where I was able to teach across all year levels at some stage or another. I look forward to bringing my acquired skills to Bluff and learning more along the way.

Parade
Parade will continue to be held on Monday mornings at 8:30am under the administration block. Our senior students will continue to lead parade on a weekly basis. All parents are welcomed each week to find out important information about our school (events) and celebrate student achievements and success.

Students Absences
If your child is absent from school, late or needs to be picked up early, please notify the office on (07) 4982 9167 or send a note.

Payments to school
Just a friendly reminder that our school no longer keeps cash on the premises and therefore cannot give change. With this please ensure when making payments for various school items, you have the correct cash. Payment envelopes will be sent home if a payment is required for a school activity. Thank you for your understanding.

Book Levy
Thank you to the parents who have settled their Student Resource Scheme account. A friendly reminder that payment is now due.

School Bus
It has come to my attention that some people have been receiving misleading information about a proposed bus service from Blackwater to Bluff State School. We have inquired about this service, however there are many contributing factors to be taken into consideration and therefore a final decision has not yet been made. If you have any questions regarding this service, please make a suitable time to discuss with me - I will be happy to answer your questions. I apologise to those that have been given inaccurate information and any inconvenience it may have caused.
P & C Meeting
We would like to welcome you all to our first P&C meeting for 2016. This will be held on February 10, 2016 at 2:45pm in D block. Please contact the school for any further information.

No Hat, Shade Play!
Bluff State School is a sun smart school, students that do not bring their hats to school are, and will be, required to play under the administration building during play breaks. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, we do not encourage students to borrow hats.

Newsletters
Newsletters will continue as a fortnightly publication on Mondays (even week) and be published on our school website (www.bluffss.eq.edu.au) and on the Q Schools phone app. Alternatively our newsletter can be e-mailed. If you would prefer this option, please forward your e-mail address to admin@bluffss.eq.edu.au with a short note asking ‘please e-mail newsletters, and our friendly staff will add you to the mailing list.

Swimming
Swimming will commence in Week 3. This term swimming will be held on a Wednesday between 11:15 and 12:15 at Blackwater. Permission notes will be sent home this week. If they could be signed and returned to school as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated. Please phone or send a note if your child is not swimming.

Library
Students will begin to visit the Library for book borrowing this week. Parents are more than welcome to borrow extra reading resources if requested.

What’s Happening in the Classrooms...

P-2 CLASS
Welcome to the P-2 classroom. As you may be aware, notes were sent home in regards to the new positive behaviour tool we are using in our classroom this year - ClassDojo. Each student has their own character and are awarded points for making positive behaviour choices. The categories were created in consultation with the students and are heavily linked to our 3 overarching school rules. When students achieve a negotiated number of points, they will choose prizes (ranging from the prize box, to a dinner date with a friend and staff member).

Students will be focusing on the text ‘Inside Out’ (movie and book) for their English and History units this term. This text enables us to study characters and emotions. For English students will be required to choose a character from the text and present a spoken presentation about the character, their emotions and how they can relate. History will see us investigating how movies have changed over time. We will be posing questions and hopefully finding the answers.

In Maths, students will be focusing highly on number and algebra.
Prep students are learning numerals, names and quantities of numbers up to 10. They have been doing a number of hands on activities to familiarise themselves with the numbers and match the different representations.
Year 1 students have been revising their numbers to 50 and extending their number knowledge to hundreds. They have also been partitioning these numbers to further discuss their place value parts.
Year 2 students have been revising numbers to 100 and extending their number knowledge to thousands. Again students have been partitioning these numbers to further discuss their place value parts.
All students have been very excited about a couple websites introduced into the classroom this term - www.studyladder.com.au and www.abcya.com. These sites enable students to interact with different games that assist with various learning areas and concepts. Students are welcome to log into these websites at home.
Welcome back! We are already into Week 2. All of the students have settled in really well. The students have returned refreshed and ready to learn. Please remember to send a snack for brain break, the snack can be fruit, veg, cheese or yoghurt. We are now lucky enough to have a cold water cooler in our classroom. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school. Students are encouraged to use the water cooler throughout the day.

Introducing the 2016 3-6 Class

Preston
Rowdy
Braydon
Curtis
Tyler
Lexy
Belle
Lakisha
Will
Latoya
Kayden

Preston
Rowdy
Braydon
Curtis
Tyler
Lexy
Belle
Lakisha
Will
Latoya
Kayden