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.

ARD
Trudy our ARD will be visiting our school on Friday the 19th February to discuss a range of documents scheduled for renewal and updates.

Leadership Day
Next week our year 6 students will be attending a Leadership Day in Emerald on Wednesday 24th February. A permission note will be sent home this week outlining additional information.

Transition
Students in year 6 will be receiving a visit from Lisa in Blackwater on Wednesday February 17th. She will be discussing the high school transition process and simply allowing students to put a face to her name. She will arrive around 9:30am. This is a short visit, so if you have any questions please feel free to forward them onto myself and I will endeavour to source the answers for you.

P & C Meeting
The first P & C meeting was held last week, thank-you to everyone who attended; it was fantastic to see so many families getting on board. If you would like to be part of the P & C please come along to the AGM to be held on March 9.

Community BBQ
P & C are holding a community BBQ breakfast on Friday 19th February at 7:30am. This will provide an opportunity for families and community members to meet and speak with staff and other personnel. Everyone is welcome and more information will be provided by the P & C.

e-Kindy
We have been approached by Linda Vella (Early Childhood Education and Care) around providing an e-Kindy program at Bluff State School. This funding is dependent on the number of students/families it would support. If you have enrolled a child in this program, or would be interested in doing so, please let me know as soon as possible. We are looking at fast tracking all documentation to have the program initiated in Term 2.
Heating Lunches
In alignment with Workplace Health and Safety, staff are not encouraged to heat student lunches for a number of reasons:

- If food is heated incorrectly it can result in burns and scalds for students
- If food is heated to an incorrect temperature it can result in food poisoning
- The staff time required to heat lunches impedes on their required breaks
- Students handling hot food can put other students at risk of burns and scalds

It is for the above reasons that staff will no longer heat any food items for students. Added to this, students are not allowed to operate microwaves for safety reasons. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause and should you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Please note these guidelines are for school staff and not P & C representatives and therefore it does not affect tuckshop.

Swimming
Swimming dates for this term are highlighted in the calendar months below. To ensure clothing is not misplaced, could all families clearly write their child/ren’s names on their clothing. This will enable us to forward any pieces onto the appropriate person. School uniforms are not cheap and we would like to assist in limited pieces of lost property.

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Thank you
I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the families and friends that assisted in getting our grounds in order. Everyone’s help was greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to McIntosh concreting and bobcat hire for lending a hand and equipment on the weekend to remove some unwanted small trees.

Cans
This year we are looking for a new community member who would like to take on the ‘cans’ project. A number of bags have been distributed throughout the community for can collection. We are seeking someone to organise collection of these cans and have them ready for recycle pick up. Please contact the office if you can help out.

Position Vacant
Bluff State School are offering a casual grounds care position for 4 hours per week. The primary purpose of this role is to ensure that school grounds are maintained in a neat, tidy, safe and hygienic manner. The role encompasses grounds beautification and general school maintenance tasks. Please contact the office for a detailed role description.

Book Club
Students have now been put into class groups on the Scholastic Book Club web site. All orders for bookclub must be submitted and paid for online. Once your order has been processed it will arrive at school already packaged for you. If you are ordering gifts, please let Max know so she doesn’t hand the book to students.

School Banking
Banking starts next week! Banking information will be sent home to new students this week. Any current students that wish to start banking can see Max in the office for the required forms. Bank books can be handed to the office on Monday mornings and will be handed back to students once processed.
What’s Happening in the Classrooms...

P-2 CLASS

Last week numerous students were rewarded with prizes from earning 20 points through our Dojo system. All students have been working that hard, that the whole class reward was also achieved. Well done to all students for the positive behaviour choices you have been making.

Last week we finished our focus text ‘Inside Out’ (movie and book). Students participated in a hot potato activity and recognised a range of emotions and related actions of characters, along with identifying personal connections. Over the next couple of weeks, students will be working hard to put together their presentations about their chosen character. Given the details and information we have already discussed and shared, I can’t wait to see the end results.

In Maths, our focus has moved to location and transformation:
- Prep students are learning to describe positions and movements.
- Year 1 students have giving and following directions.
- Year 2 students have been investigating simple maps of familiar locations and identify the relative positions of key feature.

All of these outcomes have seen students interacting with BeeBot (a robot students have to give directions to), creating and drawing obstacle courses and simple maps; and giving and following directions using a range of vocabulary. All students have been working hard and proven that they can indeed follow instructions…. when they want to. 😊

Please note; if staff are conducting testing with your child, please do not linger; this applies added pressure to the students and can have a negative impact. If you have any questions relating to the progress of your child/ren, please do not hesitate to arrange a suitable time discuss.

3-6 CLASS

The students have been working incredibly hard on their diagnostic testing. Students are tested using a variety of mediums, online testing, paper copy testing and one on one testing. The purpose of these tests is to identify areas of improvement. All of the students put in 100% effort. The data collected from the testing will be used for planning to ensure the learning is designed around the targeted improvement areas.

Week 3 & 4 –

English
- 5/6 – Short stories – identifying the language features of a humorous short story.

Maths
- 3 – Representing 3 digit numbers and adding two digit numbers
- 4 – Representing and ordering fractions
- 5 – Fractions – collections, ordering, representing and identifying types
- 6 – Fractions – adding and subtracting fractions, representing fractions as decimals

History
- 3/4 – Different perspective of first contact and the first fleet
- 5/6 – Early People of Van Dieman’s Land and Change and Continuity

See below for more 3-6 pics
Our new preps settled in to our school really well and displayed heaps of enthusiasm, while Kayden displayed outstanding listening skills.

Bridie consistently exhibited on task behavior and was an excellent role model to her peers. Tyler showed a positive attitude to Year 5 and was giving everything a red hot go!

Sensei recently visited us and told us all about Japan!
Central Highlands Regional Council anticipate construction of the new Blackwater Aquatic Centre will commence on 15 February 2016.

Hutchinson Builders have been awarded the contract to construct the new modern aquatic facility.

With funding from the Australian Government, Central Highlands Regional Council and BMA the new facility will feature:

- a 50m 10-lane partially covered pool
- a 25m covered and heated pool
- a zero-depth splash pad features
- all of the associated buildings and structures

The site layout has been on display since May 2015 and is available to view at the Hunter Street site and at the Blackwater council office.

Follow the progress of the project on www.centralhighlands.qld.gov.au and in the local media.

To note:

- Changes to the traffic movement through the Hunter Street site. Two-way traffic at the eastern access and construction access provided at the western side of the site.

Forecast dates for works (subject to change):

- Site establishment by the contractor – mid-February.
- Excavation for the pools March – April.
- Roof construction mid May – June.
- Pool installation – late June – early November.
- Entrance and amenities buildings construction – April to September
- Carpark and external works – June to November