Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2. It has been a wonderful week seeing everyone again and talking about holiday adventures and chocolate feasts.

School and Community Partnerships
I have been working hard to ensure that we have the best possible communication and partnerships between school and parents. I would like to sincerely thank those people that have made the time to tell me that they support the decisions that I have made and can see the benefits for their children. I’d like to take this opportunity to request that parents approach myself if they have questions about school processes rather than engage in conversations that generate and sustain misinformation being communicated. If you have any questions or concerns about anything regarding your child then please come and speak to me.

Uniform Policy
There will be a phasing in period for the skorts. As your daughter out grows the style she has now, then you will need to purchase the style from the uniform shop. If for any reason, your child needs to wear something different on a particular day then a note or discussion with your child’s teacher is necessary. Some reasons that we need to wear a school uniform include:

- Practicality for play
- Safety in the classroom and playground
- A sense of belonging
- Equality
- Easy recognition
- To show pride in our school

Education Queensland supports our uniform policy and we need to enforce it.
Any further questions or discussions surrounding uniforms need to be directed to myself.

NAPLAN
On the 13th, 14th and 15th of May, our Year 3 and 5 students will be sitting the NAPLAN tests. I would like to invite parents of children in Years 3 and 5 to attend a NAPLAN information session in my classroom on Tuesday 29th April beginning at 2:45pm. I will show you what the tests look like, why we do them and how we have been preparing the children. If you have a child in another grade and would like to attend the session, you are most welcome to.
I have attached an information sheet on helping children get ready for the NAPLAN tests.

Teaching and Learning Audit and Discipline Audit
Bluff State School will be audited on Wednesday 21st May. Please read the attached fact sheets.

P&C Mother’s Day Raffle
Please return your raffle tickets, sold or unsold, to school by the end of this week. The raffle will be drawn on Parade the following week. If you would like more tickets please speak to Georgina.

New Students
This term we welcome a new family to our school. Makayla is in Year 1 and Laura and Nathan are twins in Year 2. I’m sure that you will make them feel welcome and introduce yourself.
Medication at school
As winter approaches, children may become sick. Please remember that if your child requires medication to be administered during the school day then it must be signed in at the school office. Medicine will only be administered if it is in a labelled bottle with a doctor/pharmacy label stating your child’s name and amount required clearly on it.

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.

School ANZAC Day Service
Thank you to:
- The Blackwater Cadets and Sister Carmel for attending and speaking at the ceremony.
- Kyleigh C for organising the school service.
- All of the children who spoke and participated. We received feedback that it was “hands down, the best one of the day.” You have certainly done our school proud!
- Megan E for organising and making the lunch for the Cadets on Thursday.
- All of the parents and grandparents that assisted with getting the school grounds ready for our ANZAC Day ceremony. A lot of time was put into chopping down trees, branches, hedges and removing them, mulching and mowing the grass.
- Everyone that attended the school ANZAC Day service. Thank you for showing your support to the Diggers.

Duaringa District Cross Country
On Wednesday, Bailey O, Will H and Preston competed at the Duaringa District Cross Country. Well done on your efforts boys. Congratulations to Preston who has been chosen to be part of the Central Highlands team!

Date claims for this term
More information regarding each event will be provided closer to the day.
Monday 28th April – Friday 2nd May: Parent Teacher Interviews
Tuesday 29th April: NAPLAN information session for parents at 2:45pm
Wednesday 7th May: Camp meeting – Year 4/5/6 parents
Friday 9th May: Trivia Night
Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th May: NAPLAN
Wednesday 21st May: Teaching and Learning Audit, Discipline Audit
Friday 23rd May: School Athletics Carnival
Monday 2nd June: International Day
Tuesday 3rd June: Life Ed visit and RSPCA visit
Wednesday 4th June: Show Holiday
Thursday 5th June: Under 8’s Day and ages 10+ Sports Day at Comet SS
Dates to be confirmed: Biggest Morning Tea and Book Fair

Yours in education,
Elizabeth
Welcome back to a new term! This term is a busy one, with dates already starting to fill up in our calendar.

Our first English Unit this term is about creating and presenting retells. In Maths we will be working our way through concepts across the three maths strands. Preps will first be learning to generate and identify data, while year 1 & 2 students will be learning to identify, describe, continue, solve and represent patterns in the environment and within numbers. All grades will then be learning about measurement.

Students will be exploring places and spaces in the first Geography unit for the year. Our Health unit this term will be based off the Heart Foundations’ Jump Rope for Heart Program.

We will be investigating the properties of different materials in our chemical science unit. Students will be required to create different types of objects before testing the impact that the properties of the materials have on the durability of their creations. Parents and guardians often work in occupations that have access to materials that have interesting properties or may even have items at home that are no longer of use. As such, we would appreciate any help you can give us in collecting different types of items for the students to use as complete their investigations and tasks. The following list outlines the types of items we are after.

- Wrapping paper, corrugated paper
- Cardboard boxes and tubes e.g. cereal boxes
- Metal containers e.g. Milo containers
- Clean plastic bottles, containers and lids
- Bubble wrap
- Ping Pong Balls
- Different types of fabrics/materials
- Netting, mesh, ribbon
- Sandpaper
- Metal tubes, strips
- Clean nuts, bolts, screws
- Foil
- Ornaments e.g. old Christmas decorations
- Old metal cutlery, plastic cutlery
- Alfoil, alfoil pie dishes etc
- Straw, dried flowers

If you have any other items that you think may be appropriate, please drop them in or feel free to ask.

Please remind students about following school rules and displaying appropriate school behaviour. Please also be mindful in the mornings and afternoons about the level of noise outside the classrooms. Younger siblings playing with the louvers and running around outside is very disruptive to the learning that is going on inside. Students become distracted and find it hard to concentrate which affects their learning and often means that they then need to complete this work in play times and after school. Thank you for your understanding with this.
Welcome back! It has been so wonderful to see everyone well rested and ready for another great term. This term is going to be busy.

In English, we are doing a novel study. We are reading the novel “Matty Forever” by Elizabeth Fensham. The children have a reading log with comprehension questions and activities that they complete after we read a chapter each day. So far we have found a lot of inferences in the story and we are also looking at noun groups and verb groups. We will also be doing a weekly grammar topic and preparing the children for NAPLAN with spelling, language and writing activities. The children have started doing a daily journal entry when they enter the room from second break. This is an opportunity to clear their heads while also practising writing.

In Mathematics, while teaching all necessary topics, we will be continuing with our focus on times tables and problem solving. The children need to have quick recall of all times tables in order to do many maths topics successfully, including division facts and fractions. With problem solving, we have been using the Think Board. This is a 4-step process that the children need to follow when solving a problem.
Step 1: See – What is the important information?
Step 2: Plan – What do you need to do to find the answer? What operation? Diagram?
Step 3: Do – Do the working out to find the answer.
Step 4: Check – Do the reverse sum or find another way to check your answer. Fix it if it is wrong.

Remember, every day counts!

Our Excursion

Excursion to Bluff Train Station
On the last day of Term 1 we ventured across the Capricorn Highway to the Bluff Train Station. We had a great day and I’m sure that if you were in Bluff on that Friday you would have heard the children using the horns. We learnt a lot of information about the trains and coal, went on the overpass, looked at a train simulator, went on a locomotive, learnt about all the controls and the gold button and watched a train video. Thank you Lex, Jeff, Scott and Ken for a wonderful morning.
Teaching and Learning Audits

As part of an initiative to improve student learning in Queensland state schools, Teaching and Learning Audits are conducted in every Queensland state school to provide quality feedback on how the school is performing and to inform school planning processes.

The audits are usually carried out every four years or following the appointment of a new school principal. A school community may request another audit within the four-year cycle, however no more than one audit will be conducted at the same school within a 12-month period.

During the audit, an independent, experienced school principal visits the school to collect a range of data and information about school practices, programs and procedures in the area of teaching and learning.

Interviews will also be conducted with staff, students and the P&C President to gather a range of perspectives on school strategies and practices.

The audit will usually take one to two days, depending on the school's context and size. The school will receive the auditor's report within 15 days and key findings will be discussed with the principal, the school's leadership team and the school staff.

From this report, the executive summary and eight-page profile will be made available to parents and caregivers on the school's web site. The principal will work with the school community to include any recommendations in the school's forward planning.

For further information about Teaching and Learning Audits, please contact your child's school or visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nationalpartnerships/teach-learn-audits.html.
Discipline Audits

As part of an initiative to strengthen discipline in Queensland State schools, Discipline Audits will be conducted in every Queensland state school by November 2014. The purpose of the Discipline Audits is to provide quality feedback on how the school is ensuring a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment and to inform school behaviour management planning processes.

During the audit, an independent, experienced school principal will visit the school to collect a range of data and information about school-wide, programs and procedures in the area of discipline.

Interviews will also be conducted with staff, students and parents to gather a range of perspectives on school strategies and practices in relation to behavior management.

The Discipline Audit will usually take one to two days, depending on the school's context and size. The school will receive the auditor's report within 15 days and key findings will be discussed with the principal, the school's leadership team and school staff.

The report’s Executive Summary and 5 page Profile will be made available to parents and caregivers on the school’s web site. The principal will work with the school community to include any recommendations in the school’s forward planning around strengthening discipline.

For further information about Discipline Audits, please contact your child’s school or visit the Education Queensland website.
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPEN DAY 30 April, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>EVENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30-3:00pm</td>
<td>View lessons and tour the school’s facilities</td>
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<tr>
<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></td>
<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>
</tr>
<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.

Comet State School

Under Eight’s Day
‘Everyone can play’
Date: Thursday 5th June 2014
Time: 9am – 11am
Location: Comet State School Undercover Area
Hoping to see everyone there!

Please come along for a fun filled morning of activities to celebrate all children eight years old and under.
Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. Take your cues from your child: If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. Focus on doing their best & trying hard: Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. Listen to any concerns they have: If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘get over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. Give them some relaxation ideas: Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. Help them retain their perspective: One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around.

Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
Interschool Chess Coaching and Tournament

Friday 30th May 2014

Conducted by:

Proudly hosted by:

EMERALD TOWN HALL

Further information and nomination forms, please contact:

Annita Frangos
E: a.frangos@ecc.qld.edu.au
P: 4982 0977

Gardiner Chess Coaching Session
9am to 11am (Open to students and teachers)

Interschool competition
11am to 2pm (Open to Primary and Secondary students)

Costs $10.00 per student
(In teams of 4)
Supporting
Bluff State
School in 2014

Jellinbah Resources
BLUFF CWA
MOTHER’S DAY
MORNING TEA & WOGS
Thursday 8th May 2014
10am
Bluff CWA Hall
$8 morning tea
Raffle and wog games
BLUFF CWA

INTERNATIONAL DAY & 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

COUNTRY OF STUDY

"VIETNAM"

MONDAY 2ND JUNE, 2014
10.30AM AT BLUFF CWA HALL
MINI CENT SALE / LUCKY DOOR & RAFFLE
SCHOOL CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION – ENTRIES IN BY FRIDAY 30TH MAY
$15 LUNCH

FOR CATERING PURPOSES RSVP MONDAY 26TH MAY TO VAL 49829289 or BEV 49829301