Dear Parents,

Bluff Community Garage Sale
A huge thank you to everyone that helped to make the Bluff Community Garage Sale a success. Thank you to Tanya for all of the organisation. Thank you to everyone who;
- Helped moved furniture the week before, the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning from 6am
- Organised and ran Bluff’s Big Buffet Breakfast and the canteen
- Baked some yummy goods for the cake stall
- Helped set up and clean up
- Came along on the day!

Term 3 Improvement Agenda
After analysis of our school data from Semester 1, the focus for Semester 2 is going to continue to be on the following areas:
- Reading
- Spelling
- Numeracy

Camp Meeting
Camp invoices and grocery shopping lists were sent home at the beginning of this term. We will be having a camp meeting on Thursday 14th August at 2:45pm so that we can discuss the final arrangements and reminders.

School Opinion Surveys
Thank you to the parents who completed the School Opinion Survey online. This survey is undertaken each year by the Department of Education, Training and Employment to obtain opinion information from parents/caregivers, students and school staff. The surveys are designed to help schools identify what they do well and how they can improve. The survey has been extended and will close on Friday 8th August.

CARS and STARS
We have been learning about the strategy comparing and contrasting.
Finding how things are alike and how they are different is called comparing and contrasting. Comparing is finding how people, places, objects and events are alike. Contrasting is finding how they are different.
- Clue words that signal how things are alike are both, same, like, alike and similar.
- Clue words that signal how things are different are but, unlike, different, however and whereas.
- If there are no clue words in a reading passage to signal a comparison or a contrast, think about the people, places, objects or events you read about. Ask yourself, “How are they alike? How are they different?”

P&C Meeting
Our August P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 11th August at 2:45pm in D Block. I’m looking forward to seeing you there!
Helping kids be brave

1. **Skill kids towards bravery:** Help kids face their fears by skilling them ("Look around for a friendly face when you go to scouts.") You need to put your coaching hat on to build skills and self-confidence, which defeats anxiety.

2. **Scaffold towards bravery:** Rather than avoidance allow kids to face their fears in stages ("Let’s go to the party for an hour, then I’ll pick you up.") By breaking things down into smaller stages kids feel that they are more in control. Lack of control is behind a great deal of anxiousness in adults, as well as kids.

3. **Be empathetic, not sympathetic:** Empathy shows you understand how they feel; however sympathy can be maudlin, leading you to pay excessive attention to the fear as well as and letting them off the hook. Kids need a supportive adult who says (but not necessarily in these words), ‘I know how you feel but I also know you can do this.’

4. **Create opportunities for independence:** Competency is the enemy of anxiety. Building children’s self-help skills and their independence outside of the home has a snowball effect on how they feel about situations that they usually fear.

5. **Model bravery:** Your calmness, patience and willingness to methodically work your way through new situations has a calming effect on kids (good leadership is basically about staying calm in stressful situations), as well as showing them how fear of unknown, new social situations, and even specific fears such as going to the dentist, can be handled positively.

2014 Central Highlands Multicultural Festival – 10th Anniversary
Saturday 23 August 2014, 5pm – 10pm
Emerald Showgrounds, Capricorn Highway
www.multiculturalfestivalcentralhighlands.org.au

Date claimers for this term
More information regarding each event will be provided closer to the day.
Wednesday 6th August: Best of Brass visit
Monday 11th August: P&C Meeting
Tuesday 12th August: Life Ed visit
Wednesday 27th August: Wombat Stew Excursion
Monday 8th September: Year 4-6 camp
Friday 19th September: Last day of term

Yours in education,
Elizabeth
Layla has been doing an awesome job of sounding out her words when writing and Wyatt continues to be on time for school! Bailey O is proving to be a responsible and caring Buddy Reader, while Makayla has been showing fantastic effort by learning her spelling words.

What's going on in the....

P-2 Classroom

All our units are progressing nicely. Please come in and see our Healthy Food Pyramid as we start to add relevant foods to each section. We have posters up in our classroom that we complete as we make our way through the units so please come in and have a look at them.

I have moved students’ data on the data wall, including reading goals. Please take the time to look at the wall with your child.

Rotations start this week for English. Thank you to those parents who have put their names down to help! I still need a parent for the last two weeks. The roster is on the noticeboard outside the P–2 room.

If anyone has shoeboxes that they are able to bring in for our Science/Technology units, they would be very much appreciated.
In English we have been revising spelling rules and talking about plurals, vowels and consonants. The children have also written a short story that we are going to enter into a competition. Over the following weeks we will continue studying Dreamtime stories and their lessons and morals.

All students have been busy in Mathematics over the last few weeks. Year 3 and 4 children have been learning about creating a budget, fact families and division facts. Year 5 and 6 children have been learning about compass points, the Cartesian plane and coordinates.

In Science we have begun researching the planets of the solar system. We are using the internet, books, posters and other resources to find information. Did you know that the sun is 149,600,000km away from Earth?

Boxes needed! In the last week of this term our class will be designing and building arcade games. We are in need of ANY size boxes (eg cereal, snack size, large boxes etc) and other recyclable materials (eg plastic tubs, cardboard rolls etc). Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Bottle Stall at the Garage Sale. Student Council raised over $250. Jeans for Genes merchandise sold well, thanks to everyone who supported the day. All money raised will be sent straight to the Jeans for Genes Day people.

Stay tuned for information about Student Council’s whole school sleepover later in the term.

Supporting Bluff State School in 2014
FAMILY FUN DAY!

Adults $2 (14yrs+), Under 14 FREE
Purrey Steam Tram Rides $2.50

SUNDAY 24th AUGUST 2014
(tram operates 10am to 1pm)

Ride on the world’s only Purrey Steam Tram,
Climb into a variety of rail rolling stock,
See interesting rail memorabilia, and a variety of activities and exhibits including live band music. Special appearance by Star Wars Storm Troopers! All undercover. Food on sale!

Archer Park Rail Museum

Archer Park Rail Museum
Denison Street Rockhampton
Phone 4936 8191