Dear Parents,

Welcome to Week 4 – time certainly does fly when you’re having fun! I hope that everyone is feeling a lot more settled in the school routine.

Swimming
The children had all been looking forward to starting swimming lessons in Blackwater on Friday. It was great to see so many of them at school early and ready to go. If your child is not going to swim on a Friday, please ensure that they are at school at 8:30am. Spelling tests, catch up work and reading activities are examples of things that will be done at the pool while the other group are having their lesson.

Book Club
Book Club is due back to school tomorrow, Tuesday 17th February. Please ensure that you pay online and write the receipt number on your order form. No cash payments will be accepted this year.

Year planner
On the wall under the admin building, there is a large whiteboard with every school day of the year written on it. Important dates will be written on throughout the year so please check it regularly.

Absences
I will be absent on Wednesday 18th February for Finance training at Comet State School. I will also be away from Wednesday 25th February to Friday 27th February for the State wide Principal Conference in Brisbane. Mrs Merry Pidgeon will be taking the Prep-2 class in my absence and Mrs Sam Conway will be Acting Principal.

P & C Annual General Meeting
Our next P & C Meeting is the AGM and will be held on Monday 9th March at 2:45pm.

What is a P&C Association?
A Parents and Citizens’ Association (P&C) is a group of community minded people, parents and citizens, who take on a more formal role to assist the school in providing:

- feedback on school policies and activities
- additional resources to be used to enhance student learning
- parents with opportunities to be involved in their child’s education.

Joining the P&C Association is a great way to keep informed, to contribute to the quality education of your children and to make new friends. Your contribution can be as large or small as you can manage, but your ongoing support of the P&C Association is invaluable. Not only will you be supporting the
school community but you will be supported by the school community. You can learn new skills, and gain a clear understanding of how the school operates. This is a great opportunity to share in the school’s decision-making process and shape the future. Please see below for a description of the executive roles that will be appointed at the AGM on Monday 9th March.

Roles and Responsibilities

President
The president should:
- provide leadership
- act as a representative of the P&C
- ensure time is used effectively
- ensure decisions are made and followed up
- oversees accountability of the Association
- ensure everyone has a say
- manage dominant personalities
- foster good communication between the P&C, school and community
- encourage participation
- conduct meetings in an efficient and timely manner so that all members feel valued

Vice-President
The vice-president should:
- consider this position as the president’s understudy
- provide support and assistance to the president
- become familiar with P&C operations, rules and meeting procedures.

Secretary
The secretary should:
- maintain attendance records and a register of members including ex-officio and life members
- assist the president in preparing an agenda for each meeting
- collate agenda papers for each meeting (including subcommittee reports)
- prepare and present minutes of P&C and officers’ meetings at each general meeting
- record and deal with correspondence in/out as directed by the P&C
- generally organise, record and maintain information pertaining to the activities of the P&C
- have custody of P&C Association documents.

Treasurer
Treasurers must:
- comply with the Accounting Manual for P&C Associations
- prepare an annual budget for the P&C
- supply a financial statement at each meeting
- make all cheque books, deposit books and receipt books together with books of account, available to the auditor
- prepare annual statements, which must be audited and a copy forwarded to your DETE Regional Office.

P&C’s QLD Representative
The P&Cs Qld representative should:
- provide feedback to members and the executive at meetings
- be familiar with the rules and meeting procedures to assist officers in their duties
- provide feedback from the Association to P&Cs Qld on issues that are of concern to the P&C and things that are working well. It is always good to hear good news stories!
Please come and speak to me if you have any concerns or questions.

Warm regards,

Elizabeth

BLUFF STATE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AGENDA 2015

Reading Comprehension
Writing (including spelling, grammar and punctuation)
Numeracy (problem solving)
Explicit Instruction teaching
Attendance – no more than 8 days absent a year
Parent and Community Involvement

Reagan has had a fantastic start to the year, while Latoya has been very busy helping her peers.

Rylan’s been having a go at everything and Tyler had a huge 90% improvement in spelling!

Levi continues to try hard while Wyatt is showing fabulous leadership in and out of the classroom.
It is wonderful to see that all students have settled in well to school over the last 3 weeks. The Prep students have been focusing on numbers 1 to 5, including counting and writing numbers. The children have been enjoying these activities and learning about numbers through rhymes. The Year 1 students have been practising their rainbow facts, building to 10 and simple addition. This week, they will be exploring subtraction. The Year 2 students have been working on addition and this week will be looking at part-part-whole.

In English, the students are leaning about feelings of characters in books and how these are portrayed.

Please remember that you are welcome to come in to the classroom at 8:20am and spend some time with your child before the 8:30am bell.

The year is progressing quickly. Each grade is working hard and will begin assessments next week for Maths and English. Please assist students by ensuring they are having sufficient sleep and are equipped with a healthy lunch each day. In history, our year 3 and 4’s are looking at Captain Cook and the year 5 and 6’s are learning about the convicts of Van Dieman’s Land (Tasmania), all students are enjoying their topics, we could talk about it for hours. Please encourage your students to continue their research at home or borrow books from the library. Our classroom has power snack at 9:30am each morning. Students are allowed to have fruit, veg or cheese at this time. Students place their snack on their desk each morning before school and consume it while completing their work. Year 4-6 parents, don’t forget the camp meeting tomorrow after school!
Social media providers may remove content that contravenes their terms of service and/or acceptable use policies. Most websites and apps have a ‘report’/‘flag this content’ or ‘report/flag content’ function.

Common links

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/safety
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/learning
- YouTube: www.google.com/support/youtube
- Tumblr: www.tumblr.com/help
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/help

Further information

- Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA) Cybersmart program
  - Email: cybersmart@acma.gov.au
- Helping No Way! Email: helpingno.way@acma.gov.au
- Google: www.google.com/spam
d
- Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre: www.ywcresearch.org.au

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Social media and the school community

This guide offers some information for parents and caregivers about how to use social media in relation to comments or posts about their school community.

The internet, mobile phones and social media provide wonderful opportunities for you to connect and communicate online. While these technologies provide positive platforms for sharing ideas, they also have the potential to cause pain and suffering to individuals, groups or even whole communities.

Just as you would discourage your child from behaving inappropriately online, it’s important to remember that unacceptable comments or posts from parents and caregivers about their school community have a greater impact than expected.

Reputations of teachers, schools, principals and even parents can be permanently damaged — and in some cases, serious instances of inappropriate online behaviour are dealt with by police and the court system.