June 23, 2014

Dear Parents,

Feedback Forms – Homework for Parents
I would like to thank the parents who have returned their feedback forms to me. I have enjoyed reading and sharing with the staff the positive things you believe we do well. We have also looked at the suggestions and have developed a few new exciting initiatives beginning next term.

Report cards
Report Cards will be available for collection from the school office on Thursday 26th June.

Understanding Your Child’s Report Card
As you are aware, students and teachers this year have been working with the new Australian Curriculum, as interpreted through Queensland’s Curriculum to Classroom (C2C) resources. Whilst the Australian Curriculum is similar in many respects to the previous Queensland Curriculum, there are some differences which have required adjustments. For example, some concepts are covered earlier than previously expected, there is a stronger focus on specific areas and in some cases a different standard of work is expected of students.

For Semester 1 report cards, teachers are evaluating student work based on our C2C units and assessments tasks from Term 1 and 2 in English, Mathematics, Science, Geography and History. Due to the implementation of a new curriculum, report card results may also reflect students’ ‘learning curve’ in terms of the change in expectations for learning in their year level. This is not cause for concern, as teachers are adapting and adjusting their teaching/learning to ensure that students receive the necessary prior knowledge and are supported through their learning tasks.

Also, C2C units are in ongoing review and adjustment, based on feedback from teachers. However, it is worth noting the fact that report card results in English, Mathematics, Science, Geography and History this semester are based on the new content descriptors and year level Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum, and as such may not be reliably compared to previous years’ results. For further information on the Australian Curriculum standards visit the online curriculum at http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/:

Over recent years, parents, students and teachers across Queensland are gradually becoming more familiar with a 5-point scale (e.g. A-E) process for reporting in all schools.

The new system schools are using refers to attainment standards called “benchmarks of achievement” or “criteria.” So what makes an “A”, “B”, “C” etc is predetermined by a scale of achievement. Any student who shows evidence of meeting a particular level, deserves that benchmark grade.

This is what you could consider the new difference for what a “C” really means:

- A “C” means that the student has met the criteria for a learner to be at the appropriate age level.
- A “C” means that the student is doing everything required at their Year Level at school. The best description is to say that a “C” means that the student’s academic development is exactly where it needs to be.

That means attaining a “C” for Achievement means you are ON TARGET for your age level!
With all of this in mind, we must accept that it may be harder to get an “A” or “B”. These grades are not awarded simply to the top students in the class. They are only given to students who show that they are independently capable of working beyond the criteria required for their Year Level.

So what does all this mean?

- Many parents are likely to see more “C” grades on their child’s report cards.
- The “Effort” grades are a really important reflection of whether your child is achieving the best they can
- An “A” for effort and a “C” for achievement indicates that your child is “On Target” for their age and “applying their best effort”. This grade should be celebrated with students because they have worked hard to be where they need to be.

School Excursion to Jellinbah Mine
Please ensure that permission forms are returned. If your child does not or cannot eat sausages then please send along a packed lunch for them.

School Jump Off Competition
On Friday 27th June, you are invited to our School Jump Off Competition. It will begin at 1:30pm and be held under the Admin building. We will hold a few different skipping competitions – highest number of individual skips, most creative skipping routine and demonstrate some group skipping with the big rope. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Tuckshop Convener
I would like to thank Megan for taking on the role of our Tuckshop Convener for the last two terms – thank you Megan! As Megan and her family are moving away, the position of Tuckshop Convener is now vacant. Please see a P&C Executive or myself if you are interested in this role.

CARS and STARS
For our last CARS and STARS lessons we have been reviewing the 3 strategies that we have learnt:

- Finding the Main Idea
- Recalling Facts and Details
- Understanding Sequence

We have also done some Benchmark testing.

P&C Meeting
Our July P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th July at 2:45pm in D Block. Please note the one-off change of day.

Date claimers for this term
More information regarding each event will be provided closer to the day.
Tuesday 24th June: Reef Guardians visit, High School Band visit
Wednesday 25th June: Blackwater Sports Carnival (selected students in year 4, 5, 6 only), 80’s Disco from 5:30pm
Thursday 26th June: End of term excursion
Friday 27th June: School Jump Off Competition
Monday 14th July: School resumes

I would like to thank everyone for another great term. Have a safe and relaxing break and I will see you back on Monday 14th July.

Yours in education,
Elizabeth
What's going on in the....

P-2 Classroom

Well done to the P-2 students on a fantastic term! As assessment is marked and report cards written, it is easy to see which students have been listening and learning this term. It is really exciting to see the learning that has occurred this term and how well most students have engaged with it and taken it on board. All students will be showing off their fabulous skipping skills at our fun Jump-Off this Friday. Please come find us outside during last session, skipping for our lives!

Next term will see a new behaviour system in place across the school, new learning goals, preps with home readers and lots of new learning occurring! Have a great holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone with their eager and positive attitudes next term!

3-6 Classroom

As the end of term quickly approaches, it is important that we take time out to reflect on what the students have learnt. These were the children’s responses to what they have learnt and enjoyed this term:

Latoya: I have learnt my 9 times tables.
Tyler: I have enjoyed science experiments a lot.
Lexy: I enjoyed learning about money.
Preston: I like art lessons.
Mia: I learnt about the weather, clouds and heat.
Bailey J: I learnt that ice-cream melts faster than ice.
Rafe: I have learnt more about money and change.
Rowdy: We learnt that ice melts faster than chocolate.
Wyatt: I learnt about how clouds rain when they hit a mountain.
Sam: It was interesting to find out how urban environments have an impact on the water cycle.
Charli: I learnt about conjunctions in sentences.
Rory: I like being more creative in art.
Will: I enjoyed graphing about the weather in Geography.
Bailey O: I learnt about the healthy food pyramid.
Brock: On Friday’s Mrs Day has taught us about Geography and the rainfall.
Clay: I have improved in my spelling.

Student Council News

The day has arrived! This Wednesday is the Student Council’s much anticipated 80’s Disco!! The party will start at 5.30pm and will wrap up at 7.30pm. Entry is $2 each. There will be games, a best dressed competition, cool music, awesome decorations and prizes! A prize will be given to the best dressed boy and girl from each category: younger siblings not yet at school, P-2 students, 3-6 students. Come dressed to impress! The P&C Fundraiser Committee will be selling food and drinks on the night.
Please note that children are only allowed under the admin building and at the toilets. Children found outside of these areas will be told to head back underneath the admin building. Remember that school rules still apply at the disco!

Staff wish all families and friends of Bluff State School a happy and safe holiday!

L & F Mine Transfers

0428525551
(07)49336156

Supporting Bluff State School in 2014

Jellinbah Resources

WORLD DINGO TRAP THROWING COMPETITION & ANNUAL RACE DAY

SATURDAY AUGUST 23 2014
25 GREAT PARENTING IDEAS
From Michael Grose

Focus on one idea a day to transform your parenting in less than a month.

1. DO MORE THINGS WITH KIDS THAN FOR THEM
2. IF YOU WANT HAPPY, RESILIENT KIDS YOU GO FIRST
3. RAISE YOUR SMALL FAMILY WITH A BIG FAMILY MINDSET
4. MAKE THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY YEARS (BEFORE TEENS)
5. WORK ON YOUR RELATIONSHIPS AS THEY GIVE YOU LEVERAGE
6. EXPECT KIDS TO BEHAVE WELL
7. CATCH KIDS BEING RESILIENT AND PERSISTENT
8. ATTEND TO YOUR KIDS’ MENTAL HEALTH
9. DON’T BE A FAMILY THAT’S ALWAYS ON THE GO
10. MAKE SURE KIDS HELP AT HOME WITHOUT BEING PAID
11. BUILD SCAFFOLDS TO INDEPENDENCE
12. REWARD RESPONSIBILITY WITH GREATER FREEDOM
13. BUILD SELF-KNOWLEDGE IN KIDS
14. MOVE KIDS DOWN THE ROAD FROM ‘ME’ TO ‘WE’
15. TEACH YOUR KIDS TO DO WHAT’S RIGHT, NOT WHAT’S EASY
16. STRENGTHEN YOUR FAMILY BY CREATING A STRONG FOOD CULTURE
17. CREATE A CULTURE WHERE THERE’S NOTHING SO BAD THAT ‘WE’ CAN’T TALK ABOUT IT
18. PARENT FROM THE SAME SCRIPT, EVEN IF YOU’RE NOT TOGETHER
19. DO THINGS WITH YOUR KIDS
20. DON’T LET KIDS DROP OUT OF THE FAMILY
21. CONNECT WITH OTHER PARENTS
22. EVERY CHILD NEEDS SOMEONE IN THEIR LIFE WHO SAYS YOU CAN DO THIS
23. MAKE THE MOST OF TEACHABLE MOMENTS
24. AVOID YOUR FIRST IMPULSE WHEN KIDS MISBEHAVE
25. BUILD A STRONG FAMILY BRAND

For more ideas from Michael Grose about raising exceptional kids...
2. Get Michael's latest best-seller: Thriving! "the new road map for raising 3-12 year olds with confidence, character & resilience" at www.parentingideas.com.au
3. For the best parenting ideas and great advice join the Michael Grose Parenting community at facebook.com/michaelgrosepereating