Dear Parents,

Attendance
Last year our attendance rate improved from 91% in 2013 to 92.8% at the end of 2014. We are currently on 97.8% which is fantastic! Our goal for this year is to be over 95% and I know we can do it. From our data already this term, the most common day to be absent is on Friday. Please remember that every day counts in your child’s education. Research shows that students who attend school every day are more likely to achieve high results. If your child is away, please let the school know the reasons beforehand, or within two days of returning to school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons and learning opportunities.

Internal Audit
Bluff State School is having an Internal Audit on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th of March. It will be conducted by Mr Mark Staunton, Principal Internal Auditor. The objectives of this audit is to:

• Provide a professional service to all educational facilities by objectively carrying out the scope of the audit and communicating results and following up findings so that the audit program can be used as part of the educational facilities ongoing development.

• Assist the Director-General and other levels of Departmental management achieve sound managerial control over all activities under the Director-General’s control. This is to ensure that these activities are carried out effectively and efficiently as required by the legislation and policy.

• Ensure the system of internal controls within the Department are designed and operated to achieve all compliance objectives within a risk assessed framework.

The audit will take into account the following 6 areas:

• Education Queensland
• Human Resource Management
• Finance
• Procurement
• Infrastructure
• Information and Communication Technologies
School Office Hours
For 2015, the School Office hours will be the following:
Monday: 8am – 11am
Tuesday: 8am – 11am
Wednesday: 8am – 11am
Thursday: 8am – 11am
Friday: 8am – 11am
Phone calls outside of these hours will be answered by staff members. If you require other assistance outside of these hours then please come to my classroom (Prep – 2).

QSchools App
Please consider downloading the QSchools App to your mobile phone or tablet. The free QSchools smartphone app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from and about schools. It allows users to see when news, events and newsletters are posted to their selected school website. The school community can also receive emergency announcements such as natural disasters and school closures through the app. The QSchools app is particularly useful to parents who have students in different schools, as the app manages updates from multiple schools.

Annual Student Leaders Regional Mayoral Summit
Today our three School Leaders, accompanied by Mrs Sam Conway, are attending the Regional Mayoral Summit in Springsure. They have been invited to attend this summit to observe and consider presentations delivered by councillors and other student representatives. This also offers them the opportunity to dine in a formal setting and experience etiquette expectations. I know that they will present themselves in a way that shows pride in our school and community.

Bullying No Way Day!
The 2015 National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence is on this Friday 20th March. We are asking all students to come to school in as much orange as possible to show support for this event.

So what is bullying? The National Safe Schools Framework defines bullying as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Cyberbullying refers to bullying through information and communication technologies, e.g. the internet or mobile devices. Conflicts or fights between equals and single incidents are not defined as bullying. Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. In short, bullying is a repeated pattern of harmful verbal, physical or social behaviour which involves the misuse of power. Cyberbullying is bullying through the internet or mobile devices. For more information, please visit the following website: http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/
Harmony Day
Harmony Day (21 March) celebrates Australia’s cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Bluff State School will be recognising Harmony Day on Monday 23rd March. We have a fun morning planned with rotational activities around 6 different cultures from 8:45am – 10:45am. We would like to invite all parents/grandparents/family members to join us for this morning. At 10:45am we will have a whole school and community lunch. Please note that this will be instead of the normal tuckshop menu. With a big thank you to Denise and Heidi, we will be having a buffet of food from different cultures. The food on the menu consists of:

- Choc Cigars                      Turkey
- Lamingtons                      Australia
- Kababs                          Greece
- Sushi                           Japan
- Meat pies                       England
- Hot dogs                        America
- Spaghetti and Lasagna           Italy
- Fried rice                      Asia
- Curry Chicken                   India
- Drink – Punch
- The cost is $7 per person.

My First Year
The Prep students have had a photo taken for the Morning Bulletin’s My First Year Publication. This will appear in Wednesday, April 15’s Morning Bulletin.

P & C Annual General Meeting
Unfortunately we have had to postpone our AGM meeting. It will now be held on Monday 30th March at 2:45pm in D Block classroom.

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
Lane has demonstrated some outstanding work in Maths, while Charli has been having some fantastic persuasive arguments. Will has displayed excellent spelling results every week and Kayden has been showing us some awesome handwriting. Well done, keep up the fantastic work!

What's going on in the....

P-2 Classroom

Over the next two weeks, the students will be completing their end of term assessment pieces. In English, we will continue reading and analysing persuasive texts. The children are excellent at giving convincing arguments. In History, the students have been learning about significant events from the past and sequencing them in order. In Health, we have been talking about how to be a good friend. The students have decided that a good friend is: kind, caring, helpful, respectful, says nice things, smiles, looks after others, stays with you in good and bad, is a good listener, shares, takes turns, lets everybody play, uses their manners and is honest.

For the next 2 weeks in Mathematics we will be doing the following:
Prep
- Identify patterns within counting sequences.
- Use patterning to represent quantities.
- Use positional language to describe the location of objects.
• Year 1:
  • Represent and record simple addition problems.
  • Use counting to solve addition problems.
  • Represent and record simple subtraction problems.
  • Use counting to solve subtraction problems.
  • Ask a suitable question for gathering data.
  • Gather, record and represent data.

• Year 2:
  • Represent multiplication as repeated equal groups.
  • Solve simple multiplication problems with materials and drawings.
  • Represent division as equal shares.
  • Solve simple division problems with materials and drawings.
  • Collect simple data from sorting and counting activities.
  • Display simple data in a picture graph.

**Watch out for what’s been happening in the 3 to 6 room in our next newsletter publication! 😊**
Blackwater Tennis is hosting HOT SHOTS. Hot Shots will start next term, 29 April 2015, this if for all juniors aged 5 – 12 years and will run for 6 weeks. To register your child or for more information please contact 0419785781 or email mitchnat@bigpond.com

Emerald and District Athletics Association Inc
2015 Season Sign-On
Sunday March 22nd and 29th
4.00pm-5.00pm
Club House-Marist College Oval
New Athletes 5 years and over welcome
Sign up is $95 per Athlete
BIRTH CERTIFICATES ARE REQUIRED FOR NEW REGISTRATIONS ONLY
Season commences Sunday 19th April with a come and try day
1.45pm 5 years to Masters
First Club Day on the 26th April 2015
For more information please contact Wayne Gakowski on 4982 0746 or mobile 0411717477.

Emerald Eagles Football Club
Youth & Junior Soccer Sign On
Saturday 14th March 9am - 12 noon
Tuesday 17th March 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Please complete self-registration online BEFORE these dates. Fees are structured so those who pay and register online receive a discount. Go to our website page at emeraldeagles.com.au to download the registration pack with instructions on how to register.

Soccer Canteen Co-ordinator
(approx 10 to 16 hrs per wk/soccer season only)
Qualities required include: Pleasant/outgoing personality; good organisational skills; budget & money handling skills; RSA & Food Safety Certificate (training provided); Blue Card for working with children; good customer service; ability to co-ordinate volunteers; own transport.
Previous Canteen OR experience in a similar role beneficial.
If this sounds like you, please email your resume and experience including names and contact details of three professional referees to emeraldeagles@hotmail.com

Coaches and Sponsorship
We’re always looking for more of both! If you are interested in either sponsoring the club or coaching a team please email emeraldeagles@hotmail.com
Training and support is available to all prospective coaches.

Temporary Position .39 FTE (30 hours per fortnight) Teacher Aide (TA2) Dingo State School
Commencing 20th April – 11th December 2015
Applicants are required to submit a brief resume; contact details for 2 referees (one of whom should be someone with current knowledge of your skills and abilities); and a maximum 2 page written response outlining your suitability for the role referring to the key points under “How you will be assessed”.
Applications to be addressed:
The Principal
Dingo State School
Normanby St
Dingo QLD 4702
bvmac0@eq.edu.au
Applications close 5:00pm on Tuesday 24th March 2015. Applications will remain current for 12 months.
Education Queensland is an Equal Opportunity Employer. A non smoking policy operates in all government Buildings. All applicants must have, or be able to obtain, a Commission for Young Children and Young People Suitability Blue Card. Applications will remain current for a period of 12 months.