Dear Parents,

NAPLAN
On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week, the Year 3 and 5 children will sit the NAPLAN tests. The NAPLAN tests are designed to assess the skills of Australian students in literacy and numeracy. The specific purposes are:

- To collect data from the population of Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students for reporting to parents/carers and schools for systematic reporting
- To accommodate the assessment of students against national minimum standards.
- To provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 13 May Official test date</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May Official test date</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May Official test date</th>
<th>Friday 16 May Catch up tests permitted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language conventions</strong> Yr 3: 40 min</td>
<td><strong>Reading</strong> Yr 3: 45 min Yr 5: 50 min</td>
<td><strong>Numeracy</strong> Yr 3: 45 min Yr 5: 50 min</td>
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<td>Yr 5: 40 min</td>
<td>Yr 5: 40 min</td>
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The best way to prepare your child is for them to have a good night’s sleep, have a healthy breakfast in the morning and be at school early to have time to get ready.

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

Trivia Night
Thank you to Tanya, Toni, Georgina, Michelle, Constance, Kristy, Jo, Heidi, Dee and the wonderful Bluff SS P&C for organising and running the Trivia Night on Friday night. It was a fantastic and fun evening! Thank you also to the parents and community members who supported our school by coming along.

Camp
Our 2014 camp dates for Years 4-6 are 8th September to 12th September and we are going to Coolwaters on the Capricorn Coast. An invoice for $50 was sent home last week as a non-refundable deposit for camp. We need to finalise numbers before activities can be booked and the final cost can be calculated. Please see me with any questions.
CARS and STARS
As part of Bluff State School’s Great Results Guarantee we have purchased a whole school CARS and STARS program. We have done the placement book and students are grouped across the school based on their reading comprehension level. CARS & STARS is a comprehensive package of workbooks and guides aimed to improve literacy results. Each series contains books that cover the ten reading levels (P-H) and give systematic instruction on the 12 comprehension strategies. Students are exposed to a range of sophisticated elements including graphic organisers, higher order thinking, varied text types and paired selections. Instruction is scaffolded in such a way that it enables students to progress from modelled and guided instruction to modelled and guided practice right through to independent practice.

The strategy that we learnt about last and will revise this week, is the **main idea**. The most important idea in a paragraph is called the main idea. The main idea tells what a paragraph is mostly or mainly about.

- The main idea is sometimes found in the first sentence of a paragraph.
- The main idea is sometimes found in the last sentence of a paragraph.
- The main idea is sometimes not found in the paragraph. You can figure out the main idea by thinking about the most important idea in the paragraph.

Absences
On Monday 19th May I will be attending Asbestos training in Emerald. Mrs Bronwen Day will be taking the class. I will also be attending the CQ Region Principal Conference in Gladstone for the 26th – 30th May. Mrs Alison McLaughlin will take the class on Monday and Tuesday, Miss Helen Cooper will take the class on Wednesday and Mrs Bronwen Day will take the class on Thursday and Friday. Miss I will be Acting Principal in my absence.

Jump Off!
Our whole school Health unit this term is from the Heart Foundation: Jump Rope for Heart. Heart, stroke and blood vessel disease is the leading cause of death in Australia, and one of the major risk factors is physical inactivity. Low levels of physical activity have been shown to be associated with increased risk of blocked arteries, high blood pressure and overweight and obesity among children as young as 12 years of age. Evidence that physical inactivity in childhood and adolescence may track to young adulthood is of particular concern.

Benefits of the program for students:
- Builds confidence and self-esteem
- Builds strong bones and muscles
- Improves fitness, coordination, balance, posture and agility
- Is fun and challenging
- Allows for creativity and working with friends and peers
- Helps students learn about heart health and nutrition.

Throughout the term, the students will be participating in a skipping program. On the last day of term, Thursday 27th June, we will be having a whole school Jump Off Competition. Parents are welcome to come along and watch. More information will be provided closer to the day.

Life Ed Van
We are once again lucky enough to receive a visit from the Life Ed van and Harold on Tuesday 3 June. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for our students. The program strives to empower children to make informed choices for a safe and healthy life. The cost per student to visit the Life Ed van is $4.00. An invoice will be sent home today. There will also be a free Life Education Parent Information Session on Tuesday 3 June at 2pm in the van. Thank you to Chelsea who will once again drive the van to Harold’s next destination.

Pie Drive
Please return your order form and money by Monday 19th May. Pies are $9 each and will be delivered on Friday 30th May.
Say g’day to Jay in regional Queensland
The ‘Say g’day to Jay’ Kindy Roadshow is heading to regional Queensland to share the benefits of kindy. In the first week of June Kindy ambassador, Jay Laga’aia, will present free music concerts in five regional Queensland towns. Families in Rockhampton, Blackwater, Emerald, Barcaldine and Longreach are invited to attend these events, which encourage the kindy message of play-based learning. As well as performances and local ‘meet and greets’ with Jay Laga’aia, fun kindy activities will include the Monster Match game. For a full list of events during the Kindy Roadshow and ticketing information, visit the kindy events page of the department’s website or join the Kindy counts Facebook.

Homework
Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, develop a pattern of behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

Homework enhances student learning. Homework also
- Is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- Is appropriate to the phase of learning (early and middle)
- Is a way to develop study skills for the future
- Is appropriate to the capability of the student
- Develops the student’s independence as a learner
- Is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- Allows for student commitment to recreational, family and cultural activities.

Failure to complete homework is seen as a minor behaviour. Repeated failure to complete homework is a moderate behaviour. There has been some confusion regarding consequences for failing to complete homework. If a child does not complete their homework then they will miss play at school on Monday as this time will be used to complete their homework. Students are given opportunities throughout the week to speak to a staff member if they require any clarification or are having difficulties. Failure to complete homework will also result in the child not being part of the ice-cream raffle and in the year 3, 4, 5 and 6 class, students will be unable to participate in footy tipping.

Date claimers for this term
More information regarding each event will be provided closer to the day.
Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th May: NAPLAN
Wednesday 21st May: Teaching and Learning Audit, Discipline Audit
Friday 23rd May: School Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 28th May: Biggest Morning Tea and Book Fair
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
Thursday 27th June: School Jump Off Competition

Yours in education,
Elizabeth

BLUFF STATE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
AGENDA 2014

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
Rory has been an excellent role model to her peers! Reagan has been showing fantastic improvement in work ethics! Will Mc has been displaying an awesome attitude towards learning and Will H shows enthusiasm and effort while attending his Japanese lessons. WELL DONE KIDS, KEEP IT UP!

In our English unit, students have been working on following and providing character descriptions and traits. We read ‘The Very Blue Thingamajig’ by Narelle Oliver, and came up with some very good appearance descriptions and character traits. Across the school we started our comprehension program, Cars and Stars, last week. Across a fortnight, students are taught and given multiple opportunities to practise a particular comprehension strategy. This fortnight, students are learning how to locate the main idea in a text.

Prep students have moved onto learning about measurement – size, height, width and weight – in order to answer the question “How big am I?” Preps are now moving onto learning about length. Year 1 & 2 students have wrapped up their pattern units and are also moving onto measurement – length and height concepts. Don’t forget to log onto Mathletics! Once the set tasks are completed, students can then test their skills against other children worldwide in Live Mathletics. Please see me if there are any log-on/activity problems.

We are busy exploring the properties and materials of different items in our science unit. Please keep sending in those items listed in the last newsletter. Our budding Geographers (a very exciting word that we have learnt!), are enthusiastically discussing their knowledge of places and spaces, the activities that occur there, and the features of the place and space that enable these activities to occur.

Every student in our class has been reflecting on their own learning, in order to develop learning goals across the following areas: spelling, writing, reading, maths, and social/personal. Please come in to view your child’s learning goals and discuss each goal with your child.
Science topics for this term include:

**Year 3/4**: In this unit students will investigate the properties of solids and liquids including the effect of adding and removing heat. Students will evaluate how adding and removing heat affects materials in everyday life. Students investigate a range of properties of familiar materials and consider how these influence their selection and use.

**Year 5/6**: In this unit students broaden their classification of matter to include gases and begin to see how matter structures the world around them. Students investigate changes that can be made to materials and how these changes are classified as reversible or irreversible. They apply their understanding of reversible and irreversible changes to processes involved in recycling materials. Students also distinguish the differences between pure substances and mixtures and plan appropriate methods to separate mixtures. Students will pose questions; make predictions to inform investigations conducted to gain understandings of materials, how they change and how they can be separated from mixtures.

So far this term we have done 2 experiments. One to find out whether goo was a solid or a liquid, and another to compare the viscosity of liquids.

Remember, every day counts!

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**Student Council News**

Student Council has two exciting events planned for this term. Next Friday the 16th May is RSPCA Day. Students are invited to dress up as an animal, or wear items of clothing that have an animal on them. Please remember to wear sun-safe and school appropriate clothing. The uniform policy still applies. A gold coin donation is required if dressing up/wearing animal themed clothing. This money will be sent to the RSPCA to help with their various services and to assist in fighting animal cruelty.

In week 10, Student Council will be holding an 80’s themed disco. This fluro-inspired disco will be held on Thursday 26th June. Mr Chambers will be DJ-ing and has promised to include some awesome 80’s music on the playlist. More information to come closer to the date.

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**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.
Bluff Values

Belief in self
- Doing your best
- Perseverance
- Resilience

Learn and let learn
- Completing your work
- Sharing and helping
- Committed to learning

Understand rights and responsibilities
- Being responsible
- Being safe
- Being respectful

Friendships from cooperation
- Being trustworthy and honest
- Listening to others
- Teamwork

Futures through choices
- Aiming high
- Thinking before acting
- Never giving up
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated. A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions, or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can provide you with more information on special arrangements or the process required to gain a formal exemption.
38th Art Exhibition

By the
Blackwater State High School P&C Association

Official Opening & Award Presentation

7.00 p.m. Friday 23rd May
Blackwater Civic Centre
Admission: Adults $15.00  Students $5.00 under 12 Free

All Artworks displayed are for sale
Bar Operating
Finger Food

Saturday 24th May: 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
Sunday 25th May: 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
Entry - Gold Coin donation
Supporting Bluff State School in 2014

WORLD DINGO TRAP THROWING COMPETITION & ANNUAL RACE DAY

SATURDAY AUGUST 23 2014
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