Dear Parents,

Welcome to Week 6. Only 5 busy weeks until the end of the 2014 school year. Please ensure that you read and record the date claimers for the remainder of this term.

2015 School Leaders
Congratulations to the year 3, 4 and 5 students for their excellent sports leader speeches. Our 2015 School Leaders are:
School Captains: Charli and Rory
Tumbarumba Leaders: Wyatt and Preston
Wonning Leaders: Rowdy and Tyler D

Small Schools Swimming Carnival
The Small Schools Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday 20th November at the Blackwater Pool. The carnival starts at 9am and will conclude by 3pm. Children need to bring their hat, towels, lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, googles (if needed) and team spirit. I’m looking forward to a great day!

Attendance
As the school year winds down, 100% attendance is expected. If your child/children are absent from school they are not just missing a day from school; they are missing vital parts of the curriculum. Please note that parents are responsible for writing a note or phoning the school if your child is going to be or has been absent. If a reason is not given by a parent then it is marked down as unexplained.

Updating School Contact/Personal Details
Parents, please ensure your contact details are up-to-date so that the school is able to contact you in case of an emergency. Please send a note in with your name and change of contact number/address or any other details relating to your child. You can also make a phone call to the school – 07 4982 9167 if you need to change any of your contact/personal information. Thank you.

Remembrance Day
Attending Anzac Day ceremonies and participating in a minute silence on Remembrance Day are just some of the things we do to honour the memory of past servicemen and women and recognise the efforts of current serving defence personnel. Many families have a connection – a relative who has served, letters from loved ones at war, photos, medals, personal stories, diaries and memories. Lest we forget – Let us remember.
React
Our students have been learning to recognise if they are safe or unsafe in the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum*. Our safety lessons will now be focusing on the second safety message: react. When children recognise that they are in an unsafe situation, we encourage them to think about what they could do to be safe again. They will have opportunities to think about ways to react using real-life scenarios. Our students will also learn that breaking the rules (e.g. saying no to an adult who is behaving inappropriately) is sometimes necessary so that they can become safe again. Please take the time to talk with your children about what they have been learning about safety and, in particular, the ways they could react if they are unsafe to make themselves safe again. Talking with your child about ways to stay safe will help them to develop life-long safety skills.

CARS and STARS
Identifying author’s purpose
All authors write for a reason. The reason an author writes something is called the author’s purpose. When you figure out why a reading passage was written, you are identifying the author’s purpose. Authors write for one of four reasons – to describe, to entertain, to explain or inform or to persuade.

- If a reading passage contains many descriptive details about a person, place or thing, the author’s purpose is to **describe**.
- If a reading passage is enjoyable to read, tells a personal story or uses a story to teach a lesson, the author’s purpose is to **entertain**.
- If a reading passage provides facts about a particular subject or tells readers how to do something, the author’s purpose is to **explain** or **inform**.
- If a reading passage contains many opinions or tries to get readers to do something, buy something or believe something, the author’s purpose is to **persuade**.

eKindy
The eKindy program is a comprehensive ‘at home’ kindergarten program for children in the year before Prep. The program is supported by a qualified early childhood teacher and covers 15 hours of Kindergarten for 40 weeks a year (school terms only). The program aligns with the early years learning framework and the Queensland kindergarten learning guidelines. eKindy is for children who are unable to regularly access a centre-based kindergarten program. This includes children:

- isolated by distance
- with a medical condition
- part of travelling or itinerant families.

Children must be born between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011 and meet the eKindy eligibility requirements for 2015. The details of enrolment and how you can support these Kindy Kids can be found at the following link: [https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Ourschool/ekindy/Pages/ekindy.aspx](https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Ourschool/ekindy/Pages/ekindy.aspx)

State Schools Update: Our Year 6 students are ready for Year 7
Did you know that next year more than half the students in Year 7 will be turning 13 and in their eighth year of school? Educators agree that young teenagers are ready for the greater independence and depth of learning that high school provides. If you have any questions about your child starting Year 7 in high school next year, talk to us or visit [A Flying Start](http://www.flyingstart.qld.gov.au).
P&C Meeting
Our November P&C Meeting will be held this afternoon, Monday 10th November from 2:45pm. At this meeting we will be discussing the Resource Scheme for 2015 so please come along with any feedback and suggestions.

Date claims for this term
More information regarding each event will be provided closer to the day.
Monday 10th November: P&C Meeting
Thursday 20th November: Small Schools Swimming Carnival
Thursday 4th December: Prep Transition Day, Year 6 High School Transition Day
Friday 5th December: Year 6 High School Transition Day
Tuesday 9th December: Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Wednesday 10th December: Awards Night/End of Year Celebration
Thursday 11th December: Break up Day
Friday 12th December: Last Day of Term

Warm regards,
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

What's going on in the....
P-2 Classroom
Assessment is well and truly underway in the P-2 classroom. Please ensure students are well-rested and have healthy lunches over the next few weeks to allow them the best opportunity to do well in their assessment. Once assessment is completed, students will continue to be learning, practising and revising concepts learnt this year in preparation for the 2015 school year.

All students have been tested on their reading over the past week and are being sent home with notes that outline the areas they would benefit from focusing on when reading at home. Please keep practising reading, completing homework and learning sight words over the remaining 4 weeks of school. Learning for the 2014 school year does not stop until 2.30pm on the final day of school.
3-6 Classroom

The next few weeks will continue to be busy so attendance every day matters. All students have written a poem using their 5 senses. All four grades had a different theme to write about and this week we are editing and typing the poems. In maths we are revising all topics learnt in preparation for assessment next week. For science, the 3/4 children are doing an investigation on heat transference and the 5/6 children are working on an investigation involving electrical circuits.

We will also continue doing our weekly grammar and spelling focus for each grade. Last week we finished reading ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’ and this week we will begin ‘Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator’.

Have a great fortnight!

Students of the Week

 tô Wyatt wrote very entertaining and interesting spelling word sentences.
 tô Noah showed some great work with addition.
 tô Lexy came up with fantastic creative ideas for poetry.
 tô Will has been displaying great progress with reading.
Regular school attendance
Information for parents and carers

Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Why is regular attendance at school important?
Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.
- They learn better
- They make friends
- They are happier
- They have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?
Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school.

Principals Decide if the reason given for your child’s absence is acceptable.
Avoid keeping your child away from school for:
- Birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends. If they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check ups or care such as hair cuts.

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time?
You are encouraged not to schedule holidays during school time. If your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child. Depending on the circumstances the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent or assist you to organise an exemption from schooling.

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school?
Yes, you must let the school know the reason why your child has been absent from school within two school days of their return. If possible, advise the school beforehand.

Are you having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?
- Won’t get out of bed in the morning
- Won’t go to bed at night
- Can’t find their uniform, books, school bag ...
- Slow to eat breakfast
- Haven’t done their homework
- Watching TV
- Have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
- It’s their birthday.

If so, a set routine can help
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have a set time to get up
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Have a set time for setting and finishing breakfast
- Set a time for daily homework activities
- Speak about school positively
- Be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

What should I do if my child won’t go to school?
You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

Every day counts – Is your child at school today?
www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts
Department of Human Services will be visiting the Bluff Lions Park on November 18 at 9:00am to 11:00am. Full mobile service will be available including the following services:

- Centrelink (families)
- Medicare
- Referrals for Child Support
- Free Hearing Tests
- Drought Coordinator