Dear Parents,

As the end of year quickly approaches I would like to thank everyone for their support and efforts this year. I am very proud of all the children and the progress they have made.

Small Schools Swimming Carnival
Thank you to the children that came along to support our school on the day. Thank you also the Ben, Chelsea, Toni and Kyleigh who did timekeeping.

Attendance
Our current attendance rate is 93.4%. I’m sure that we can improve on this by the end of the year. Please remember that even in the final few weeks 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.

End of year activities
There are many activities happening in the final week of school – year 6 graduation, awards night, and an excursion. Please ensure that you return all permission forms as soon as possible. Please continue to check the date claimers and see me if you have any questions.

Report Cards
Report cards will be available for collection from the office on Tuesday 9th December. If they are not picked up, they will be posted.

Report
This week we are starting to implement the final key message of the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum: report. This means that when children or young people have been in a situation that is unsafe that they are taught to report what has happened to an adult. Even if a child has been able to make themselves safe, it is vital that they still report what has happened. Adults need to know about unsafe situations so that some action can be taken to help the child be safe again or ensure it doesn’t happen again.

Students involved in the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum will be encouraged to make a list of adult safety helpers. These are adults the children and young people nominate whom they can talk to when they are feeling unsafe or have experienced an unsafe situation or feel they are at risk of something that may cause them harm. This list will include a selection of adults who live in and outside the home.
Report also includes telling an adult about unsafe or inappropriate incidents which may occur when children or young people are online. This might occur when surfing the net or using social media sites like Facebook and twitter, and can include cyberbullying, viewing or receiving inappropriate images or messages or communicating with unknown contacts.

It is important that the key safety messages of the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum: Recognise, React and Report are reinforced, both at school and home. I encourage you, wherever possible, to talk with your child about safety to help them stay safe now and in the future.

CARS and STARS
Interpreting Figurative Language
Similes, metaphors and idioms are types of figurative language. Authors use figurative language to help readers create pictures in their mind. When you understand the meaning of a simile, a metaphor or an idiom, you are interpreting figurative language.

- Look for things that are compared in a reading passage. Try to find examples of similes or metaphors.

- Looks for phrases whose words have a meaning different from their usual meaning. Try to find examples of idioms.

- Figurative language usually brings a picture to a reader’s mind. Use that picture to help you understand the meaning of the figurative language.

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

Date claimers for this term
More information regarding each event will be provided closer to the day.
Friday 28th November: Carols by candlelight – Skate Park
Thursday 4th December: Prep Transition Day, Year 6 High School Transition Day
Friday 5th December: Year 6 High School Transition Day
Monday 8th December: Year 6 Graduation Dinner – Bluff Pub
Tuesday 9th December: Report Cards Distributed
Wednesday 10th December: Awards Night/End of Year Celebration – CWA Hall
Thursday 11th December: Break up Day – Excursion
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**

Majority of our assessment is now complete, with any incomplete activities being finished this week. We are continuing our Health, Science, Maths and Geography units, with some more hands-on activities over the final weeks. The P-2’s will be learning how to write letters and address envelopes over the next few weeks.

Students will be writing and replying to letters between themselves, as well as writing a special letter to Santa. Please remember to send in a stamped (70c stamp) envelope with your child’s name and address written on the back ASAP. Santa letters will be written and sent this week to provide Santa and his helpers with plenty of time to write back!

It was great to see so many students participating and having a go at the Swimming Carnival on Thursday! Well done to all for a great Bluff SS attitude! Prep – 2 have been completing activities about being kind for World Kindness Day in week 6. We have a poster up underneath the building and some posters about each child, written by a peer displayed in our room. Please come and check them out!

**3-6 Classroom**

It is hard to believe that there are only 3 weeks left of the 2014 school year. The final 3 weeks are going to be the busiest! I will be out of the school on Tuesday to do the budget for 2015 and on Thursday for the Principal Business Meeting. Mrs Merry Pidgeon will be taking the class.

The 3-6 class has completed all assessment items and is in the process of wrapping up units for the year. Over the remaining weeks we will continue to revise concepts covered this year to consolidate learning.
I would like to encourage everyone to continue to keep reading a priority in the final few weeks and to read over the Christmas holidays.

**Read Aloud Commandments**
To support reading at home the following list of Mem Fox’s Read Aloud Commandments can be used in the home:

1. Spend at least 10 wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud
2. Read at least 3 stories a week
3. Read aloud with animation. Don’t be dull flat or boring
4. Read with joy and enjoyment
5. Read the stories that kids love over and over again
6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the language or anything else connected to the book
7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children
8. Play games with things you and the child can see on the page, remembering it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game
9. Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books
10. Please read aloud every day, Mums and Dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.

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**Students of the Week**

- Pacey’s journal writing this fortnight was very interesting! Well done!
- Clay has been writing long and descriptive sentences.
- Koda showed some fantastic results in spelling.
- Tyler D has been putting in 100% to all of his school work.
Student Council wishes to thank all students, staff, families and community members for their support throughout this year. We have contributed towards many great charities, purchased a variety of items for the school, had some fun events and days, and have really enjoyed working as a team to help our school and the wider community. Once again, a big THANK YOU to all of you, as we would not have been as successful without your help.

Supporting Bluff State School in 2014

Jellinbah Resources

L & F Mine Transfers

0428525551
(07)49336156
Bluff Skate Park
Friday, 28th November 2014
6:30pm

Entry: gold coin donation

Bluff P & C will be selling drinks, sausages on bread and candles.

Bring your own chairs and blankets