Principals Report

Congratulations to our new school leaders and sports leaders for 2013. Our future school leaders for 2013 are Brant and Keisha, while our new sports leaders are Ty and Michelle and Petria and Jehu. I am sure these students will do a great job next year in their respective positions. Congratulations also to Petria, who came 8th in the sports championship in Cairns last month.

Thank you to those families who supported the garage sale last weekend. There were some very successful stalls, with many goods being recycled to find new homes. A very big thank you to those parents who gave up their time to cook a delicious breakfast on the day and to all those who contributed their time and cooking to ensure there were plenty of goodies to keep our energy up on the day. It was great to see so many of our students involved in this event.

Both classrooms at Bluff State School have begun implementing explicit instruction, a Central Queensland EQ teaching framework initiative. This framework encompasses high expectations for student behaviours, learning, bookwork and responsibility. It places a focus on ‘warm ups’ or brain building exercises that occur before beginning an explicit teaching lesson. The purpose of these ‘warm ups’ is to assist children to retain previously taught concepts in long term memory. This is when automaticity occurs, where students can retain facts and rules such as number facts or spelling and math rules and bring this information to the fore when they are required. This explicit instruction agenda will become part of our school improvement agenda in 2013.

This week I have had to discuss two very important issues with all students. The first was about spreading rumours and gossip. I have made it clear to the students that the spreading of rumours, designed to cause hurt to others, is not acceptable behaviour. The second has to do with graffiti that I viewed in the skate park earlier this week. The language of the graffiti was offensive and demeaning to other school students, as well as disrespectful to the community who put so much time and effort in to having the skate park built. While some of these offences may not have occurred at school they are designed to cause hurt to others, and bring the good name of other students/staff and the school into disrepute. Our recently reviewed Bluff State School Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students indicates that these behaviours are not acceptable at our school and outlines serious consequences for such behaviours. Please discuss these issues with your children and encourage them to understand the seriousness of these behaviours and the consequences for these actions.

We welcomed our prospective 2013 Prep students earlier this week for a session in the P-3 classroom. The current P-3 students took on the responsibility of caring for their new friends and showing them the ropes around the school. The prospective students enjoyed a variety of manipulative equipment, a story and creating a collage. We look forward to having them visit again next Friday for further activities.

Congratulations to Will, Rory, Varleigha, Clay, Latoya, Brayden, Ty, Bailey, Mia and Brayden E who are our star students this fortnight. Tramaine absent from photo.

The Grade 7s who will be attending Blackwater State High School in 2013 have the opportunity to participate in transition days, beginning in week 6. They will attend one day a week until week 9, when they will spend 2 days at the high school. Enjoy the experience Grade 7s.

The teachers enjoyed the surprise morning tea last week on World Teachers Day. Miss I and myself really appreciated the special effort put in by those parents, children and staff who cooked us some delicious goodies, decorated the under cover area, and came along to share the morning tea with us.

If you would like to have a parent teacher interview in the following two weeks please see your child’s teacher.

The grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for. Joseph Addison
We are almost at the halfway point of term four! The 4-7’s have been working over the past weeks on gathering information and developing the necessary understandings for each subject. With assessment starting this week and continuing across the next few weeks, a lot of class time is being dedicated to the consolidation and practise of knowledge and skills. Despite some mumbling from students about completing similar tasks repeatedly, we are seeing this work move from students’ short-term memory to their long term memory.

To help your child achieve their best in the upcoming assessments, please encourage them to complete their homework and discuss with you what they have been learning in class. Homework tasks, especially study ladder activities, are based on in-class learning and will consolidate knowledge ahead of tests. Please ensure your children are getting a good nights sleep and are coming to school ready to put in their best effort.

Our year 4-7 students have come so far this year, and I am looking forward to seeing them strive to do their best as we continue through this term. Good luck to all the students!

Thankyou to all the families who contributed to the World Teacher’s Day morning tea last Friday. Mrs Bulger and I were very surprised at what the children and our awesome teacher aides put together! A special thankyou to Celine, Charli, Flynn and Makaylah for giving up their playtime to help Mrs Clanfield set up on the day. A big thanks to Mrs Clanfield, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Ohl, Mrs Jaques and Mrs Muller for thinking of us! Teachers never expect to receive gifts for doing what we are passionate about, but it is lovely to receive acknowledgement for the long hours spent at school and at home preparing lessons, resources and activities to help the children further their knowledge and skills.

News from the P-3 Classroom

Last month we had the pleasure of welcoming two new students to our classroom. Faith and Tyler have found there are plenty of new friends to show them around the school and make them feel welcome. We also welcomed our new Preps for 2013 to a session in our classroom this week. We all enjoyed the fun filled learning session and look forward to seeing our special visitors again next week.

Over the past couple of weeks the Preps and Grade 1s have been learning how to tell the time in maths. They can tell time on analogue and digital clocks to the o’clock and half past. They have taken the clocks they made home so they can practice with their parents. We have also been developing skills to enable the children to recall their ‘make 10’, ‘doubles facts’ and ‘count ons’ quickly. Grade 2s have worked particularly well with fractions. They also had loads of fun creating a grid map, and plotting a course to direct readers through a map. They are now working with number sequencing in the thousands. Our Grade 3s have been working with surveys and data. They have engaged in several hands on activities to create and interpret data graphs.

I have to say a big “Well Done” to all the students in the class for such a great effort and improvement in handwriting. They have worked hard on this aspect of their school work and it is impressive to see so much improvement in such a short time. I am also particularly impressed with the progress the students have made in their grammar work. The Preps and Gr 1s are learning to use upper case letters when writing proper nouns. This has involved learning to tell the difference between common nouns and proper nouns and then writing the words appropriately. The Grade 2s and 3s have consolidated knowledge on relating verbs, subject/verb agreement and the structure of a paragraph. They will be required to use this knowledge and these skills in a written assignment next week.

In week 5 we will have the CQ Waste Council visit our classroom to further develop student understanding about recycling. The children have read stories and viewed video clips on what happens at a recycling plant and have completed their sculptures made from recyclable materials. They have also learned how clean environments, such as the bush, oceans, rainforests and air become polluted environments, through human involvement. This understanding is being depicted through art works.

Great work P-3s!
P&C News
P&C Meeting will be held on November 6 at 2:35pm. The agenda will include a secret ballot regarding the implementation of the revised school hours. Please be aware that only members are

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<td>CQ Waste visit</td>
<td>Year 7 transition continues</td>
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<td>Year 7 transition at BSHS</td>
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*Student Council News*

The student council members have been busy over the last few weeks organising some fundraising events for the last term. The P&C garage stall was deemed a success, the children learnt a great deal of skills revolving around customer service. A special thank you to Brant, Hannah and Celine for staying back to help with the cleaning up and packing up. Tonight is the Halloween Disco and the children have been very enthusiastic about organising this spooky spectacular for their fellow students.

We have approached Jellinbah Mining and have been asked to provide Pukka Powder straws for their annual Christmas Party. The children are excited about spreading the “Pukka Powder” joy. This will be the last major fundraising venture for the year.

*Mango Season*

Blackwater State School are having a mango fundraiser. Please see the attached sheet. All orders and money can be given to Max or Jo upstairs.

**Prep Orientation Day Pics**

Blackwater Tennis is starting MLC HOT SHOTS
Ages 5 – 12 year olds
Starts Wednesday, 7 November from 4 – 5pm.
at the courts on the Capricorn Highway.
Phone Nat Waters 0419785781 or