Principals Report

We are very quickly approaching the end of the year and there is so much happening over the next couple of weeks, with awards, graduations and excursions. Thankyou to all those students who have put in a great effort, especially over the last term, to finish the year on a high. It’s not always easy to keep working hard as the year draws to its completion. But, as we finalise report cards, I have noticed there are some children who have shown remarkable improvement over the year and I congratulate all those students who have continually tried to accomplish their best work and make improvement.

Last week our school received the results of the School Opinion Survey (a survey issued at all state schools) and there were very pleasing figures in the data, which I’d like to share with the school community. Thank you to the eighteen families who returned their Parent/Caregiver surveys, as your voices have been heard and are basis of the data. In analysing the data I looked at areas where parents felt Bluff State School was doing well, as well as issues parents believed we could improve on. The parent survey indicated improvement in almost all areas when compared to data from last year. 100% parents agree that their child likes being at this school and feels safe. 100% parents believe their child is getting a good education. These figures are an improvement on last year. Other very pleasing outcomes were that 100% parents believe staff are approachable and 94% parents believe staff are responsive to their inquiries. Both these areas show significant improvement over previous years. Two areas noted for improvement for next year include behaviour management and providing online information about the school. It is interesting that staff had already begun addressing these issues before the survey results came back. Last month we reviewed the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students and had it endorsed by the P&C. It outlines expected behaviours and tightens up consequences for inappropriate behaviours. The availability of access to online information for parents has also been addressed with our new website going live today. As mentioned in the last newsletter Max and Kyleigh have been working hard on this for several months. All families will now have all the school information they require at their fingertips 24/7. I was very pleased to note that 100% of parents agreed this is a good school, which was a significant 20% improvement from the previous year. I’d like to thank all those families who work with us to ensure it remains that way and assure you Bluff State School will continue to work to improve our school next year.

We had a visit from the Herald this week to do a story on our Fence Friends. Some of the students were photographed with the Fence Friends and I believe the story will run next Tuesday. Thanks again to Mrs Ohl for organising this very successful event and Mrs Eder for applying for the funding.

In the last week of school both classes are having party day on Thursday. To minimise food wastage we have placed lists on the classroom doors so that you can place your name beside the item you would like to contribute. Children will then share the food at the party. If you do not wish to contribute to the party you will need to pack your child’s lunch as normal. Thankyou to all those who have already placed their names on the lists, and to those who are willing to contribute food and drinks, to make our day special.

At our learning celebration/awards night next Thursday, students are required to wear full school uniform, as this is a school event. Students have organised any costumes/props required so parents do not need to concern themselves with this.

Student academic reports will come out on Wednesday 12th December and they can be picked up from the office. If they are not picked up they will be posted. This is also the date of Year 7 graduation dinner, to be held at Fifi’s Bistro at the Bluff Hotel. As there may be reduced attendance on Friday 14th Dec (the last Friday), our next newsletter will come out on Wednesday 12th Dec, instead of the Friday. This will ensure everyone gets the latest information, which will be jam packed with photos from awards night and the excursion, before the holidays. Friday will be a clean up day. Please see me if you have any concerns regarding end of year procedures.

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” William Arthur Ward
News from the 4-7 Classroom

Over the last two weeks, the 4–7 class have been busy completing assessment, learning new things and even doing some fun activities! The highlight has definitely been the year 2’s and 3’s coming up once a week for their transition into the “big” class. Last week the year 2–7’s were split up into groups and conducted a science experiment on how high different types of balls bounce. The younger children did a fantastic job at working with the older kids and enjoyed themselves greatly. This week, Miss I made life a little bit harder and students worked on a Christmas craft, where students made a reindeer. There were a lot of steps in this activity and I was impressed with how well most children listened and followed instructions. The year 2’s & 3’s have proudly displayed their reindeers on their coat hangers in their room and the 4–7’s reindeers are hanging in our room. Please come see them!

We are now getting further into the Christmas craft and doing lots of practising for our learning celebration. Please encourage the children to practise their performances at home as we want them to perform to a high standard on the night. Please remember your plate of food for the learning celebration next Thursday night. The party day food list still has lots of empty spaces, so please write your name next to an item as soon as you can. Students who don’t supply an item for the party day in the last week, will need to bring their own lunch for both breaks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students for a memorable introduction to multi-age teaching. The start of the year was intense: as students got to know and understand my expectations, as we all got to know each other, and as I adjusted to teaching multiple year levels! As we finish up our year, I am very proud of how much the students have achieved and how far they have progressed! I have seen such a substantial rise in academic understandings and skills: attitudes towards peers, teachers and work: independence and the pride they are showing in their work. I am now seeing students raise and meet their personal expectations for their work and I am so delighted to be seeing this. Well done 4–7’s! It has been a busy but great year and I look forward to 2013.

News from the P-3 Classroom

Last week was full on assessment in our classroom as we brought our learning units to a close. All maths, English and reading assessments are now completed. Well done to all the students for continuing to give their best right up to the end of assessment. Over the next couple of weeks we will continue to revise certain maths and English concepts to consolidate any learning where we feel they may be gaps in learning.

Our Grade 2s and 3s have spent the last 2 Wednesday mornings up in the senior classroom to assist them with their transition next year. They have loved going up with Miss I and have done some exciting science and craft activities with the senior students. Miss I was very impressed by their abilities and we both believe they are all ready to make the big move next year.

The students are currently enjoying their art activities, which we are now doing everyday. While it may seem like the students are just having fun when they engage in these types of activities, they are actually developing creativity, fine motor skills and problem solving skills. They are also sharing resources and learning to help others. As each new item is completed it is added to the tinsel hangers. The children are very proud of their creations.

The P-3s are also busy rehearsing and polishing their performances for our learning celebration/awards night. The students will present a play, based on a story we have read this year. They will also present some songs with movement they have learned throughout the year. We look forward to sharing this with you all on Thursday night.
Part time/ Casual Tuckshop Convenor

An exciting opportunity exists for a Part time or Casual Tuckshop Convenor(s) incorporating the Uniform Shop to work within the Blackwater State High School.

Application packages are available from the Blackwater State High School office or by phoning 4986955.

Wages and conditions will be subject to Award Conditions. Applications are required to be submitted to:

Private & Confidential
Blackwater SHS P&C Association
PO Box 148
Blackwater QLD 4717

Or hand into the office at Blackwater State High School

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Year 7 transition continues</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Learning celebration concert</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Whole school excursion</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Yr 7 Graduation dinner</td>
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Information regarding events will be sent home accordingly.

Congratulations to our fortnightly Star Students.
Rory, Declan, Bailey, Kayne, Brayden, Mackaylah, Charli, Michellie, Keisha, Brock and Riley.
Mr Movember

Student Council is in the process of finishing up for the year. The students are learning the importance of making sure all business is completed before wrapping up for the year. Student Council enjoyed their breakup party to McDonalds and the Blackwater Pool last weekend. It was a nice day for a swim and it was good to see the students enjoying themselves. Student Council will be looking for new members next year, so students, start thinking about that now!

Last P&C Meeting for 2012 **Tuesday December 4** 2:45pm
Residents are invited to attend the Councillor Community Consultation Meetings being held in the following areas.

**Wednesday 5 December 2012**

Dingo Community Hall, Dingo commencing at 9.15am for a 9.30am start.
Karamarra, Big Bend Community commencing at 11.30am for a 12.00 noon start
CWA Hall, Bluff commencing at 2.45pm for a 3pm start
Comet School of Arts, Comet commencing at 5.00pm for a 5.30pm start

The aim of the meetings is for the Mayor, Councillors and Senior Managers of the Central Highlands Regional Council to meet members of the communities and to provide an update of Council activities and programmes and for Councillors and Senior Managers to be appraised of matters that concern the community.

For further information, please contact Annette Bush on 4980 5555.

**BRYAN OTTONE**
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
**PO BOX 21**
**EMERALD QLD 4720**