Principals Note
Welcome back to Term 3. I trust everyone has had a restful and relaxing holiday. This term is an 11 week term ending the 20 September. Every day counts and we encourage our students to attend school every day to maximise learning opportunities. We are off to a flying start again this term with students having already participated in a variety of different and challenging curricular activities. I am looking forward to another fun filled, exciting and challenging term of learning.

Parent Surveys
The annual School Opinion Survey will be conducted next week. This year, staff and students will complete their School Opinion survey online, while parents will receive a paper copy. Students in years 4, 5 and 6 will receive user names and passwords and complete the survey at school. Student surveys will be administered following a departmental guide.

School Annual Report (SAR)
The School Annual Report for 2012 is available on our website (www.bluffss.eq.edu.au). If you do not have access to the website and would like a copy of the SAR, please contact the office for a paper copy.

Cowboys Visit
Students had a fantastic time doing drills and learning about how important it is to have a healthy lifestyle. The students also learned that a good sportsman/women also needs to have a good education. Go the COWBOYS!!!!!

Sausage Sizzle Breakfast
Toni R has kindly volunteered to host a sausage sizzle every Friday morning from 8:00am to 8:25am. Sausage on bread is $3 and a hot drink is $1. We are very proud to announce that $200 was made from the first sizzle. Monies raised will go through the P&C and used for school camp.

Sports Carnival
Congratulations to Brock O, Bailey, Vanessa, Flynn, Varleigha, Tramaine and Petria who will be soon travelling to Moranbah to compete in the Central Highlands Athletic trials. We wish them all the best.

Fundraising News
The date for the annual Garage Sale has changed to August 18, 2013. Please note this on your calendars. Stalls can be booked by phoning the school or Tanya on 0439988856. Site fees are $10. Our P&C have stated that they would like to sponsor an award for students. This award would be in relation to ‘School Values’ so what our school captains speak about on parade. Year seven students would be responsible for choosing a win for this award. Winners are to receive a tuckshop voucher.

SAVE THE DATE – School Fete
25th October  Theme – Halloween
The organisation of the fete is coming along nicely. However the fundraising committee is always in need of volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated.
Girls Life
Our year 7 girls have been attending the Girl Life program in Blackwater. They recently had a fabulous time enjoying ‘High Tea’, decorating cupcakes, making sandwiches, setting a table correctly, folding fancy napkins and learning table manners. The girls have also had their nails manicured. Each week their Girl Life Coach gives them a ‘rule’ to use for the week such as, ‘I belong here, I do belong’. Through the week the girls reflect on their rule and discuss how they did this at the next Girl Life session. We are pleased to advise parents that our ‘Girl Life’ girls now have the opportunity to participate in their graduation (13 September) as the previous date was a conflict with camp.

P&C Meeting
Our P&C have stated that they would like to sponsor an award for students. This award would be in relation to ‘School Values’ so what our school captains speak about on parade. Year seven students would be responsible for choosing a win for this award. Winners are to receive a tuckshop voucher.
The next P&C Meeting will be held on August 13 at 2:45. All are welcome to attend. The agenda for the meeting is kept on the library counter.

NAIDOC
Blackwater NAIDOC week celebrations are in full swing. NAIDOC is all about teaching and sharing the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Inlander cultures. Bluff State School participated in the march held in Blackwater last Monday. This year’s theme is ‘We value the Vision’ and Blackwater’s specifically ‘One vision, one community, one mob’. Students were then part of the official opening and flag raising ceremony followed by a lovely morning tea. Students will also be participating in cultural activities during the come week thanks to Jenny our local PACE coordinator.

CWA competition
Students participated in our local CWA completion earlier in the year and the winners then went on to Central Highlands completion. Bluff State School has done very well four of our student got second place, Rory, Keisha, Grace and Amelia. We also had three first place winners, Mia, Faith and Flynn The first place winner will now compete in the Queensland competition to be judge later in the year. A huge well done and congratulations to all our competitors and I look forward to hearing the results of the Queensland competitions.

Uniform Policy - Jewellery
Health and safety is important in every school. To minimise the risk of unnecessary accidents our endorsed dress code states that: Jewellery is not to be worn or brought to school. For pierced ears, small studs may be worn or sleepers if your child has problems with studs. The wearing of a religious cross or jewellery of personal or religious significance is allowed following a discussion with the Principal. Medic alert bracelets are an exception and should be worn at all times.

Sight Words for Early Readers
The Department of Education has launched some web apps to support learners. Find the Sight Words App at: http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/apps/education/outandabout.html
This fun and free app will give your child a flying start in literacy by helping them practise their sight words when they are ‘out and about’. Out and About sight words kit - level 1 is the first in a series being developed by the Queensland Department of Education and Training. It’s aimed at Prep to Year 2 students to help them master the first 100 sight words to which they are typically introduced. Out and About has been designed for parents to give to young children when they are in transit or waiting and want to fill the time in a fun and educational way. The words in this kit are grouped into ten word sets. Students select the word set and say the word that appears. If they cannot remember the word, they can touch it and hear the word and then swipe to the next. Once they have mastered the words, they can move on to the next set.
Kids love using their parents’ phones and they love mastering each set. In no time, your youngster will be ready to zoom through entry-level books. This app also contains additional games and ideas for parents to help their children recognise sight words.

Students of the Week
Congratulations to the following students
Savannah—Improvement in handwriting.
Tyrin—Great attitude towards start of term.
Faith—Working well towards her learning goal.
Welcome back for another fantastic and busy term! Report Cards were sent home at the end of last term and I have only had a few parents see me about interviews to discuss the report cards. Please see me at any time if you have questions or concerns about your child and their learning. I am more than happy to arrange a time to meet.

Our first English unit this term is all about information texts. Over the past two weeks we have read (and re-read multiple times) the story Stellaluna, discussed the difference between fiction and non-fiction and pulled apart the story to determine which elements were true and which were made up. These activities are all leading up to students writing their own information report. All students are also being exposed to different reading strategies. These have gone home as a bookmark in the home reading folders and are being used in reading groups, independent work and whole class situations. Mrs Edwards and I are seeing big improvements in the students who are now using these strategies. Please encourage this to continue at home when reading as well.

As you can see outside our room, shape is the current focus in maths. All students can name the 6 most common 3D shapes and some of the features. Our History unit continues to focus on personal histories, asking questions about events and finding answers to these questions. In Health we are working through a unit that comes from the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum. This has been developed to support Queensland schools in delivering key safety messages to students in Prep-Year 9. Students will learn how to recognise, react and report when they are unsafe or find themselves in situations that can have a significant detrimental effect on their physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. Science this term is “The Earth and Us”. Students will investigate a variety of landscapes and ways in which people interact with the landscape. Students will explore familiar phenomena, including weather and the effect of weather on living things, including people’s clothing and activities. Students will compare and describe changes that occur in the features of the day sky and landscape with the night sky and landscape.

All students have returned to school with fantastic attitudes and I look forward to a great term of learning.

Student Council News

Thank you to all students who participated in State of Origin Free Dress Day this week, $25 was raised for the Red Shield Appeal. In total Student Council raised almost $200 from last terms State of Origin Free Dress and Formal Disco. This money went towards the 5-7 camp fund. As you would be aware by now, Jeans for Genes Day is on the 2nd August and Student Council is holding a fashion parade and auction which will showcase jeans/denim clothing items decorated by students and community members. Remember to get your nomination forms in as soon as possible to be apart of the fun. All other information was sent home last week so please refer to that note or see a student council member, Miss I or Mrs Clanfield. If anyone would like to donate some “blue food” for the afternoon tea after the auction, such as fairy bread with blue sprinkles, blue cupcakes/pikelets etc please let us know.

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded with a Student Council badge on parade on Tuesday. These students have been attending Student Council meetings weekly for more than a term. Jehu, Wyatt, Cody K, Damon, Tramaine, Bailey O, Brock O, Preston, Rory, Michelle, Charli and Rhianna.
S.T.A.R with your child for success

According to experts, early childhood is the most critical period for speech, language, literacy and brain development. From birth, parents play an important role in teaching their children. When you use the four easy steps to STAR with your child every day, he or she will be ready to succeed in school.

SING. Kids who grow up hearing music, singing songs, and moving to the beat are experiencing a rich sensory environment. Researchers believe this helps in brain development or neural connections. Research also shows that kids who are actively involved in music do better in reading and math when they start school. They also have higher self-esteem. And, kids don’t care how your voice sounds. To them, you're their Aussie idol!

TALK. Talking to your baby is very important for building brain development. Did you know that your baby’s brain triples in size in the first 3 years of life? Your baby’s brain develops as he or she interacts with you and your family. In fact, your baby is learning even when he or she fusses, giggles, blows bubbles, or snuggles up with you. Research shows that lots of talking with your child in the first 3 years of life helps build the brain structure that is needed later to support reading and thinking skills. So, talk, talk, talk. Before you know it, your baby will be talking too!

ASK QUESTIONS. Asking your child questions is an important part of brain and language development. Children will mimic speech behavior and will start to ask questions back. Most toddlers with typically developing language skills are consistently answer “yes” and “no” questions. They can usually answer questions like, “What do you want to eat?” By age 3, most children with typically developing language skills can correctly answer questions relating to themselves like, “What’s your name?”

READ. Reading just 20 minutes a day to your baby or child will make a difference in his or her development. Reading aloud to your child, yes — even to your baby, is a wonderful shared activity that’s an important form of brain stimulation. It teaches your child about communication while introducing important concepts like stories, colours, letters, numbers and shapes. It builds listening, vocabulary, and memory skills. It helps your child exercise his or her imagination. You’re teaching your child that reading is important. Your local library has books for every age level. Ask the children’s librarian to help you choose a book that is appropriate to read to your child’s age level. Also, most libraries offer a story time where they read aloud.

Read the weather
Read the sky
Read people — people’s emotions
Read the environment
The land that the library building stands on actually belongs to QAS and they are wanting to sell it. The building itself is not that great anyway and hampers any form of group usage as it is so small.

There has been an ongoing concern with the usage of the library service but we do not want to give up without a fight! We’ll be appealing to the locals to help us find a solution to the problem and hopefully continue to service this small but no less important community with adequate library services into the future.

Blackwater Tennis Assoc. Inc.
0419785781
email: mitchnat@bigpond.com
facebook: Blackwater Tennis Assoc. Inc

Gradings for Junior Fixtures (ages 10+ yrs) commence 24 July at 4.30 pm. Junior Fixtures will start on 31 July and will run for 8 weeks. All players are reminded to bring a hat and water bottle. If they do not have a racquet one can be borrowed. Cost for fixtures is $40 membership (insurance purposes) and $40 fixture fee. For more information please contact Nat Waters.

PCYC Skating
JULY 26
6PM TO 8PM