Dear Parents,

This will be our last newsletter for 2013. As the year draws to a close it is time to say thank you and farewell to many of our terrific staff: Mr Michael Chadbone for all of the work and support he has given to Bluff State School. Mr Mimmo Cisternino (LOTE) for his years of dedication in the teaching of French to our 6s and 7s. Mr C has been transferred and will be teaching at Taranganbah State School. Mrs Hilary Eder (Special Education) is heading down to the south east corner. Sincere thanks to Mrs Eder for her commitment and expertise. Last but not least Alison Wood is leaving our school also after five years of working in various roles at Bluff, thank you Alison for your versatility, commitment and dedication. To all of our outgoing teachers a big thank you for what you have done for our school and we wish you all the best for the future.

Staffing and School Structure
Due to the drop in the number of students enrolled for next year there will be only two classes, prep to year two and year three to year seven. I believe Miss I will remain in the lower class and Ms Webb will be teaching the upper school.

Farewell Year 7s
It is a very busy time for our Year 7 students as they prepare to move on to new settings and undertake their secondary schooling. Students and families will celebrate their Graduation next Tuesday evening, (10 December). This will be a busy day for our seniors as they will also attend their whole day orientation activities at Blackwater High School and make sure that they are well informed for next year. These 10 students have been a great cohort and will certainly be missed in 2014. Good luck to each and every one of you and we aspire for you to continue to be confident and resilient lifelong learners in your pursuit of excellence!

Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to students who competed in this year’s swimming carnival. Thank you for great behaviour and excellent sportsmanship. Bluff won the aggregate trophy!!!! Congrats to the students who won age champion!

Party Day - Thursday 12th December
Next Thursday, December 12, will be party day. Students are asked to bring a plate to share for lunch and are allowed to wear old plain clothes on this day and togs/sun safe shirt are also needed. Activities will vary, some activities will be class and others will be whole school. The P&C will supply watermelon and ice blocks to all student and we thank them for this.

Behaviour Reward Excursion
Students and staff had a fantastic time at the Emerald pool yesterday. Thank you to all the students for their excellent behaviour to get on the bus and your excellent behaviour while we were at the pool. You should be very proud.

Christmas Raffle
All P&C Christmas raffle tickets to be returned to school by next Tuesday 10 December. Raffle will be drawn on this day.
**Principal’s Farewell**

I want to thank each and every one of you for all of your support, and for entrusting me with your children for the past year. I am honoured and feel so fortunate that I have had the opportunity to get to know them. During this year, I have fostered relationships with many of you and I will cherish the memories and friendships I’ve made during my time. Bluff has been a very special place for me and I will miss everyone but remember it’s not ‘Goodbye’ it’s just ‘See ya later’.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday. On behalf of the staff at Bluff, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of our school and look forward to this continuing next year.

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**Curriculum Priorities for 2014**

Key curriculum priorities for 2014 are:
- Reading and comprehension
- Writing, including spelling and grammar and punctuation
- Maths, with a specific focus on accurate number fact recall in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and place value, including decimals and working with fractions
- High standards of bookwork presentation
- Explicit instruction
- Vocabulary instruction
- Introduction of the subject Geography for all students

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

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**Dear Bluff School Community,**

My name is Elizabeth Webb and I have been appointed as the permanent Teaching Principal of Bluff State School from 2014. My son Hayden and I are looking forward to meeting you all next year. I am currently teaching in a large Brisbane school. I have always wanted to teach in and lead a small school because of the opportunities to really get to know the students, staff and community members. I will work closely with everyone to make Bluff State School a wonderful place to learn.

I have already heard many fantastic things about the students, staff and community in Bluff. Hayden and I love being active and are looking forward to becoming a part of the Bluff community. I am especially excited to meet all of you in person and build upon the great work accomplished by Mrs Lennox. I will continue to provide the best learning opportunities for you and your children.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas,

Elizabeth

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Hi, I’m Hayden. I will be in Year 2 next year and I’m really excited about making some new friends. My favourite things are Skylanders (Swap Force), Star Wars, Lego and Minecraft. I also love to run, ride my scooter and play any type of sport. I can’t wait to play in Bluff’s playground and skate park!

Hayden
Prep/1 students have wrapped up assessment this week and should be congratulated for the attitude and work ethic. All students worked hard and to the best of their ability. Next week we will be practising, practising, practising our Learning Celebration items, beginning some Christmas activities, and starting to wind down the term. The last two weeks of term is a fantastic opportunity for us to revise concepts taught this year, embed skills that students have learnt and work through content with less pressure. Please ensure your child is still attending school, as every day still counts and the fun only comes after all the hard work has been done.

Thank you to all children who attended our pre-prep sessions, and parents who attended the information session. The pre-preps thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and the prep students enjoyed being the “big kids”. It was a great chance for our new prep students to experience school life and hopefully some of the nervousness and panic will have lessened. I know that I am much less nervous about starting off 2014 now that I have met and had a chance to interact with most of my new students. Year 1 students had a ball in the 2,3,4 classroom and 4 very scary pirates returned to class on Wednesday afternoon, so I’m not entirely sure what happened to my lovely year 1’s.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas break. :)

I would like to take this chance to look back at some of the highlights as well as the funnier moments of the year. My top three moments in no particular order are the persuasive writing and speaking tasks, science experiments and the rewards day at Emerald pool.

The persuasive writing and speaking tasks allowed student creativity to shine. I was impressed by the wide range of topics the older students chose and the quality research they did to find evidence for their opinions.

The science experiments were a highlight because of the hands-on nature of learning. We cooked rice and measured the change in temperature, we saw how quickly ice melts on a hot day and once we even accidentally found out that sand does not dissolve like face paint. (Face paint, sand, it’s an easy mistake to make!)

The third highlight was the rewards day. It is on days like this that the Bluff kids really shine.

I would like to once again thank the students staff and school community for making my time at Bluff an enjoyable one.
Congratulations to the following students for their efforts in weeks 8 & 9.

- Savannah - for improvement in handwriting
- Charli – always helping others
- Ayzlin – for consistently being on task and working to the best of her ability
- Keisha – for consistently working at a high standard
- Rory – for showing leadership and initiative
- Kayden – showed fantastic attitude and work ethic when completing tasks

Staff at Bluff State School wish all students and their family a happy and safe Christmas.