Dear Parents,

Welcome to Bluff State School for 2014! It has been a wonderful week meeting and getting to know the new and existing families of Bluff State School. The students have all settled in well and we are all looking forward to a fantastic year.

My name is Elizabeth Webb (Miss Webb) and I am truly excited about working with you and your children this year. I am very passionate about teaching and ensuring that every day, every child is learning. I am from a large school in Brisbane and my son and I made the move as we wanted to be a part of and work with a small community. Thank you to the staff, students, parents and community members for making us feel so welcome already.

Jellinbah Sponsorship

I would like to sincerely thank Mr Ian Cooper and Jellinbah Mining for their generous financial contribution to Bluff State School over the last few years. With Jellinbah Mining’s continued support we were able to once again employ a full time Teacher Aide for 2014. This allows us to maintain our focus on the improvement of student learning and achievements. As Bluff State School’s core priorities this year include the improvement of reading, writing and numeracy, this Teacher Aide position will allow for more individualised and focussed teaching to occur within the classroom.

Admin Day

I will be having my admin day on Fridays. Mrs Bronwen Day will be taking the year 3 – 6 class on Fridays. Bronwen will be at the Welcome Breakfast on Monday 3rd February from 8am. I am also required to attend a meeting about the Great Results Guarantee agreement in Rockhampton on Wednesday 5th January. Bronwen will be replacing me for the day. I will be back for our Parent Teacher Information Evening. Thank you for understanding.

Parent Teacher Information Evenings

Prep – 2 will be having their information session on Tuesday 4th February at 6:30pm. Year 3 – 6 will be having their information session on Wednesday 5th February at 6:30pm. We have split the sessions so that families of children in both classes may attend both nights. These evenings are a great opportunity for you to come along and receive some more information about what your child is going to be learning this year, as well as the class routines for 2014. Children are welcome to attend and can play at the back of the classrooms. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Swimming

Swimming lessons will commence in Week 3. You should have received a note from your child regarding this yesterday. Children will travel by bus, compliments of L & F Ward Mine Transfers, to Blackwater every Friday. The bus will leave at 8:30am and return by 11am. Students need to wear togs under their uniforms to school if possible, and bring a swim bag with a sun shirt, sunscreen, towel and comb. Please make sure that if your child wears their togs to school, that they have underwear in their bags to get changed into and ensure that everything belonging to your child is named! Please contact the office with any queries.

Supporting Bluff State School 2014

L & F Mine Transfers

0428525551
(07)49336156
Parade
Thank you to the parents that attended parade on Tuesday afternoon. It is an important event as you can hear the School Leaders and myself explain key messages relating to our school. Parade will continue to be Tuesday afternoons at 2:10pm.

Tuckshop
Tuckshop will be starting next week on Thursday 6th February!! We are changing the tuckshop day this term to Thursday due to swimming. Georgia is the tuckshop convener and will be sending home a Tuckshop Information Pack next week. In order to have tuckshop every Thursday, we are relying on wonderful volunteer parents to help out. A roster for volunteers will be on the board under the administration building. Unfortunately, if there are no volunteers, then there will be no tuckshop. Thank you in advance for your help!

Student Absences
If your child is absent from school, late for school or needs to be picked up early, please call the office or send a note to school. The office number is (07) 4982 9167.

Payments to school
Please ensure that when sending money to school for events such as swimming, or purchasing from the uniform shop, that you have the correct cash. The school does not keep any cash on the premises therefore cannot give change. Thank you for understanding.

Anaphylaxis
Within our school community there are a few students who have a life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to foods, predominantly to peanuts and tree nuts (e.g. almond, cashew, hazelnut, pistachio). We respectfully ask, that where possible, please limit the products sent to school that contain any kind of nut. All children will be constantly reminded not to share food and to wash their hands after eating. Your cooperation and understanding of this matter is appreciated.

Birthday Cakes
Unfortunately, due to the high number of food allergies and intolerances throughout the school, the staff at Bluff State School have decided not to allow cakes to be bought to school for birthday celebrations. Our priority is the safety and well-being of all children in our care. We appreciate that it is exciting for children to celebrate their birthdays with their classmates and we will do this by singing Happy Birthday and playing games. Thank you for understanding.

No Hat, No Play!
As Bluff State School is a sun smart school, students that do not bring their hats to school are required to sit at the table in the shade outside Miss I’s room. Children with no hats are not permitted to play under the buildings.

Pick Up
Just a gentle reminder not to park in the school car park. This is for our children’s safety!

Student Banking
A student banking information package will be sent home to Prep students today. Other students are welcome to come to the office to collect the necessary paperwork to open a school banking account.

School banking provides children with an opportunity to make deposits each week. Student will receive a yellow Dollarmites wallet and deposit book to bring their deposit to school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit. Every deposit earns them a silver Dollarmites token, and once they’ve collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

Welcome Breakfast
On Monday, February 3 the P&C will be hosting a breakfast to welcome new students staff and families to our school community. Please see the flyer sent home today for more information.

Newsletters
Newsletters will continue to be fortnightly and published on our website (www.bluffss.eq.edu.au). Easy access to our website information can be obtained through the QSchools App available for Smart Phones. An alternative to this is to have your newsletter emailed to you. If so please forward an email to admin@bluffss.eq.edu.au with Email My Newsletter Please in the subject line.

I hope that all families have had a wonderful first week and are enjoying getting back into the school routine. Please come and speak to me if you have any concerns or questions.

Elizabeth
Welcome to all the students and families in the P-2 class this year! We have had a busy first week back to school. This week the focus has been on getting to know the children, establishing rules and expectations and seeing where all the children are at. The novelty of school is starting to wear off for some prep students this week as things start to become more structured and they experience consequences for their actions. Please talk with your child about the role of school and rules in their lives and how important it is, so that they can learn and master new things. Year 1 & 2 students are doing a fantastic job of demonstrating great behaviour and have made me extremely proud in their eagerness to help our prep students.

Two notes went home with students this week outlining some general information about the routines and classroom. Parents, please ensure that you are not arriving at school too early in the mornings. For the prep students especially, school is a long day and arriving even 15 minutes early can make them tired during key learning times. We expect students to be arriving around 8.20am. If on a rare occasion you need to bring your child early or if you know you will be running late at pickup times, please let me know. Please feel free to come in before or after school with your child and look at what they have been doing. As work is completed it will be displayed around the room or in your child’s books.

A reminder that this coming Tuesday the 4th February, I will be having a parent information night in the classroom at 6.30pm. I look forward to seeing you then and to a fantastic year in the P-2 class!
Colouring Competitions were sent home with students today. Please have them back to school before the due date so we can forward them on.