Principals Report

Welcome back to school for term 3. I hope everyone had a refreshing holiday. This term promises to be another very busy term with book week activities, literacy and numeracy week activities, camp, Fence Friends day and the fun run. There are several other events in the pipeline and we will let you know when these are confirmed.

At the end of last term we visited Duaringa State School for our multi cultural day. The day was full of fun indigenous based activities. The children developed an understanding of how to create traditional art works. They played Goori and danced to didgeridoo music. The workshops were interactive and lots of fun and the students had a great day. I commend them for their conduct on the day, which was exemplary.

Congratulations to our athletes who will participate as members of the Duaringa District athletics team- Varleigha, Flynn, Tramaine, Ty, Petria, Savannah, Blake and Hannah. They will participate in Emerald on July 31 and we wish them all the best in their respective events. Good luck everyone!

For those who don’t know we were fortunate to have QRL development officers visit for a workshop with our students last week. The session featured on WIN TV news last week and as ‘school of the week’ on Wednesday of this week. We are hoping someone has taped the clips so we can show all the students. Well done everyone as your conduct again was commendable and also congratulations Aaron on your interview with the news reporter.

Both classrooms are focusing on Indigenous learning this term and the curriculum will be taught in integrated units of study. Several families have brought in cultural artefacts to share with the classes and these are assisting the students in their learning. Thank you to those families for the loans and also the information you have been willing to share. Attached to this newsletter is information regarding NAIDOC week activities in Blackwater. Some of these are after school activities, however there is a fun family day on next Sunday, which may assist the children to deepen their understanding of indigenous perspectives and assist in their learning.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter of term two, the children will be engaging in a health unit based on building resilience and motivation. There will be opportunities for families to become involved in this learning by discussing activities the children bring home to do. This will not be written work but rather involves having discussions with your child about feelings or ways of behaving e.g. They may be encouraged to look people in the eye and use a brave voice, or attempt to do a new ‘hard’ thing or taste a new food. These discussions or activities could be part of a typical family discussion/activity such as around the dinner table. It is not meant to be onerous on families but rather a way of bringing families together to promote emotional and social development in the students. This unit will begin in week five.

To help keep you informed on what is happening in the classroom both teachers will now present a small overview or highlights from each classroom in the fortnightly newsletter. The purpose is not to tell you everything that has happened in each classroom, but rather give you a snapshot of the activities and learning that is occurring for your child.

As our School Improvement Plan focuses on improving every students’ achievement in reading it would be great to see 100% participation in the Readers Cup Challenge. I have been seeking information from the children as to how much effort they have put in, to participate in this event. Some children have put in a fantastic effort and have completed one sheet already- and working towards another! Others are well on their way to completing their first sheet. Well done to those students. I am aware of your great effort and once you have handed your sheet in to Mrs. O’hl this will recognised on parade. I encourage all students to participate in this worthwhile activity.

Jo Bulger

Remember: There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates’ loot on Treasure Island. (Walt Disney)

Star students

Well done to Preston, Clay, Rhianna, Sam, Celine and Latoya for their excellent work in week 2.
First Aide
Bluff State School staff will once again be updating their first aide training to ensure our students and staff receive adequate and prompt attention if an injury is sustained.

P&C News
Winner of the $20.00 Origin Double was Mandy Vagg. Congratulations!
Next P&C Meeting will be held on Monday, July 23.

UNIFORMS: Please be aware that Billeez will soon be placing their final winter order for school jackets. Please contact Sallee if you would like to order for this year.

Student Council News
Student Council regret that we will have to cancel the car wash due to lack of adult helpers. However, we will try to organise one for term 4.
We are proud to announce that we have purchased $200 worth of educational board games and some dvd’s to be kept in the library.

P to 3 News
Traditional indigenous narratives are the basis of our learning this term and they are a focal point of the P-3 English lessons. As we have delved into indigenous studies the children have learned about the similarities and differences between their own family and traditional indigenous families. They have looked at family structure and the ways they get food and the manner in which traditional indigenous families used different tools and utensils for hunting and gathering. We are also reading indigenous narratives from around the country.

In art and technology the children designed and made a dilly bag, shared in making a large Rainbow Serpent and completed a turtle using art techniques they learned from Deadly Arthur at the Duaringa cultural day. In developing literacies, the students have looked at the different symbols used in traditional art forms and investigated ways in which these symbols can be used to make a story.

Some maths concepts the Grade 2 class have investigated include calendars and periods of time. They have explored how days at the end of the month need to continue in sequence on to the next month. They have also been looking at partitioning numbers. An assessment on the calendar and partitioning numbers is next week.

Grade 3 students have investigated place value and begun investigating measurement. They are learning how to estimate length which requires prior knowledge and understanding of standard units such as centimetres and metres. They will continue to work on this in the coming week, with an introduction to measuring weight using kilograms and grams. There will then be an assessment on measurement at the end of the unit. The preps and Grade 1 students have been identifying numbers that come before and after. They have also begun to count on as an introduction to addition.

In science the children investigated space as astronauts in a space ship. They discussed the planets and their place in the solar system.

I have made some changes to the homework program in our junior classroom. The maths homework will now consist of learning multiplication or addition tables and their related division/subtraction operations, to increase automaticity. As we have allocated more class time to maths lessons it means we are consolidating many concepts in class, that were previously being done as homework. However the children should continue with their operations tables as homework, to help them in all math strands. The spelling and sight words activities for the respective grades will continue to be part of homework. Again, these concepts help with automaticity for all literacy activities.

I hope this section in the newsletter each fortnight will help with discussions with your child on what is happening in their classroom. Please come and see me if you have any concerns with your child’s learning.

Jo Bulger
One of our greatest human needs is to know that we belong. An internalised sense of belonging and security is fundamental for emotional health. This sense of belonging must come from both inside ourselves and from living and being in community with others. If we look to external things only, such as our achievements, the world around us or how people perceive us, we give others or our circumstances the power to determine our worth and value. This means that we may try to control how people see us because only by dominating their opinions, attitudes and perception of us, can we feel safe. Alternately we cling to a group, a gang or a person in order to feel as if we belong. Developing an internalised sense of belonging alone can be costly and is ultimately doomed to failure. The knowledge and feeling that we belong to a family, a community, to a creator, or a group, gives us our internal and external sense of belonging and security. A child normally gains his deep sense of belonging from emotionally connected parents. Parents that love, validate, nurture, affirm, and connect with the child from conception. In addition, a child’s sense of belonging will be aided by teachers that believe in them. Every new environment that we interact with, such as pre-school, kindergarten, school, friends’ houses, sports teams, our marriages, our community or our churches, challenges and tests that belief in our sense of belonging.

Our behaviour can be affected by our feelings and thoughts. Sometimes we can ‘feel’ like we don’t belong in our family, with children at school or in groups that we might belong to out of school. Those feelings and the thoughts that result from those feelings are not always true or right thoughts. A thought like, ‘Nobody likes me’ or ‘I’m weird’ is not true, or helpful so we could decide instead to think, ‘Some people are good at sports, I am good at drawing’. These are true thoughts and they help us. It is up to us to choose ways of thinking that help us feel like we belong. We may be different from others but it doesn’t mean that we don’t belong. Everyone has different looks, different body shapes, some are better at sports than others, while some are better at drawing. Some people will like us for who we are and some will not. Everyone will be left out at some time of their life. It is our choice to choose ways of thinking that help us to feel like we belong wherever we and whoever we are with.
BLACKWATER LIONS RACE CLUB PRESENTS

THE QANTAC RACE DAY

21st JULY 2012
AT THE BLUFF RACE COURSE
GATES OPEN AT 11AM.

5 RACE PROGRAM – COMMENCING AT 12.30PM
$5 ENTRY FEE FOR ADULTS – CHILDREN FREE

COURTESY BUS TO THE RACES
FIRST BUS LEAVES AT 11AM FROM THE MINeworkers CLUB &
11.15AM FROM THE BLACKWATER HOTEL
THEN ON THE HOUR TILL 1PM
CONTACT 0429 064 772 FOR BOOKINGS ON THE DAY

FASHION OF THE FIELD
PRIZES FOR
- BEST DRESSED LADY
- BEST DRESSED MAN
- BEST DRESSED GIRL
- BEST DRESSED BOY
- BEST LADIES HAT
- LOUDEST MENS TIE

LICENCED BAR & FOOD
PROVIDED BY THE BLACKWATER LIONS & LIONESSSES

QANTAC RACE DAY PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
- QANTAC - BLACKWATER MINeworkERS CLUB-
- BLACKWATER HOTEL MOTEL - T&J WHITEHOUSE -
- WESFARMERS CURRAGH – YARRABEE COAL -
- COATES HIRE – LCR – PIrTEK – GOAIRBONE –
- CFMEU - ASLS – COUNTRY CO – LINDA RYALL -
- BLACKWATER TILT & TRANSPORT SERVICES -
- BLACKWATER MOTOR INN – HIGHLAND HOME -
- BLACKWATER PHARMACY – BLACKWATER ROTARY-
- NORTH BLACKWATER GENERAL PRACTICE-
- RED ROOSTER BLACKWATER
2012 NAIDOC Blackwater

Community & Engagement Initiatives
Blackwater State School
Blackwater High School
JWM Australia
Willege on Blain
PESC
Pinnacle Services LAC Program
BAPT Computer
Community Church
Wingman Church
Anglican Church
Lions & Lionsess Club
Blackwater Community Nursing Services
Balgal Medical Centre
BMA
North Westunguardroodeador Corp
CRIC

Partners
Contact: Neil Hassall 0427 537 508

All Welcome

Traditional Dances & Entertainment
Group Singing Performance
Indigenous Dance Workshops
Kuppy-Mum, ARTistry workshops
11.00am NAIDOC Family Fun Day

NAIDOC Disco on Wheels

Friday 22/07/12

Contact: Neil Hassall 0427 537 508

All Welcome

Morning Tea Provided
Flag Raising Ceremony
Excursion to Lums Park on St. Mary's Street
9.15am Assemble at the Blackwater Pool Wyee Street

NAIDOC March Opening Ceremony

Monday 23/07/12

Contact: George Spooner 0409 345 810

All Welcome

Service by Pastor George Spooner
10.00am Lums Park

NAIDOC Church Service

Sunday 22/07/12