Imagine   Innovate   Inspire

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Dear families, care givers and friends of the Blackbutt State School community, welcome to this edition of the Blackbutt Bulletin.

ATTENDANCE - EVERY DAY, EVERY HOUR, EVERY

MINUTE COUNTS AT BLACKBUTT STATE SCHOOL

From the Principal’s Desk
FROM MRS GAYLE WILLIAMSON - PRINCIPAL

THRASS:

If a child cannot successfully spell words then they are less likely to improve their school results in literacy. Skills and strategies for learning ‘how to spell’ are a very important part of the spelling process. Even if a child is able to ‘spell a word’, if they do not understand the process they cannot use this knowledge to spell unfamiliar words. As in maths, it is not just the correct answer that is important, the working memory and understanding of how to achieve the correct answer is vital to the cognitive process (deep understanding) for future learning.

Scientific research has shown phonics is a crucial strategy in the understanding of ‘how to spell’. Knowing the 44 sounds of English and the various spelling choices that represent these sounds enables the learner to understand orthography (the spelling system of our language) and not be confused by restricted phonic patterns. For example, in English the letter ‘c’ does not just represent the sound (c) as heard at the beginning of words like cat. It can represent the sound (s) as in the words city, cent, Cindy etc. The sound (f) is not just represented by the letter ‘f’ but can be represented by the letters ‘ph’, as in photo, Sophie, Philip and Phoebe. The letter ‘y’ does not just represent the sound heard at the beginning of yawn, but more commonly represents the sound heard at the end of words like city, pony and Kelly, or the sound in the words my, tyre, fly and by. Our school is committed to explicit, hands on phonics teaching. We look at phonics patterns within a whole-word approach. That is, if we are teaching the word fish we focus on all the sounds not just one. Research has shown that students with a more comprehensive vocabulary and a greater understanding of the meanings of words, will more successfully apply words to memory for spelling and are more competent in comprehension and writing. Spelling must be practised. Writing words in context to show meaning is a vital part of your child’s spelling program. The spelling lists that your children will be working on at this school will be compiled by the classroom teacher and will contain words from all subjects focusing on relevant themes.

This year we will be focusing on improving the teaching and learning of writing inclusive of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

To assist with achievement of this priority, we are implementing a whole school Prep to Year 6 sounds to letters methodology called THRASS. Some parents attended the THRASS workshop presented by Mrs Francis Duffy from the THRASS Institute on Tuesday 17 January 2017. These parents were very keen for this methodology to be used to help students spell, read and write. Parents/carers can purchase their own THRASS chart for use at home from the school’s office for $6.95. Just see the office staff to arrange this purchase.
The words will be relevant to their everyday learning, not just an abstract list of words from a commercially produced spelling book. The teacher will be focusing on word meaning, the phonetic structure of the word, links to other words with similar structure and the grammatical use of the word - plurals and tenses. Your role as a parent is important in this process. Talking with your children about the meaning of words from the relevant classroom themes, using dictionaries and looking at the grammatical changes in words is far more important than ‘rote’ learning a word for testing at the end of the week. The more the learner can see the word in context, understand the meaning, make phonic links and practise writing words in a fun and meaningful way, the more competent and adventurous speller they will become. You will also be building vocabulary for future learning. Our school will be using THRASS as the basis for phonics teaching and the MASUTA Spelling Sequence to develop your child’s spelling skills and strategies. It is important that your child learns the THRASSCHART, so that they are able to use the phonic information to decode (read) and encode (spell) words. Having this knowledge will allow your child to develop skills in reading, spelling, writing and reading comprehension enabling them to reach their full potential in literacy learning.

Practice Naplan Tests Week 3 Term 1 2017

In week 3 Term 1, we will be administering the 2016 NAPLAN tests as a practice for children in years 3 and 5 who will be expected to complete the 2017 NAPLAN tests in week 4 term 2.

The timetable for the practice tests is outlined below:

**TIMETABLE FOR PRACTICE TESTS WEEK 3 TERM 1 2017**

**FIRST SESSION ONLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY 6 Feb</th>
<th>TUESDAY 7 Feb</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 8 Feb</th>
<th>THURSDAY 9 Feb</th>
<th>FRIDAY 10 Feb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS</strong> 9.00 am to 9.40 am 40 minutes</td>
<td><strong>READING</strong> Yr 3: 9.00 am to 9.45 am-45 mins Yr 5: 9.00 am to 9.50 am-50 mins</td>
<td><strong>NUMERACY</strong> YR 3: 9.00am to 9.45 am-45 mins Yr 5: 9.00 am to 9.50 am-50 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Minute break 9.40am to 10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WRITING</strong> 10.00 am to 10.40 am-</td>
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</table>

The purposes for doing a practice test are to observe our children in a test situation and to gather class data to inform teaching and learning. We wish to give every year 3 and year 5 child the opportunity to participate in the NAPLAN tests in term 2. After the practice tests in week 3, school staff may contact parents/carers to discuss any concerns they have with some children taking the test. School staff will ask for your permission to adjust the administration of the actual NAPLAN test in term two by adding extra time, or offering adult support, or may seek your permission to withdraw the child from one or all of the NAPLAN tests. If school staff contact you, they will ask you to sign a permission form. Any parents/carers who may have concerns about their child participating in the practice tests in week 3, please talk with your child’s teacher before week 3. In May of every year, students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). NAPLAN was first introduced in 2008 and has become a routine part of the school calendar in Australia. NAPLAN, which is part of the National Assessment Program (NAP), is how governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether young Australians are reaching important educational goals. ACARA is working towards moving NAPLAN online. The aim is for students to complete NAPLAN tests using a computer or another electronic device, such as a tablet. The Australian Government remains committed to a national approach to online assessment, including delivering NAPLAN online. NAPLAN will continue to be paper-based for 2017.

**The dates of the 2017 NAPLAN tests are:**

![NAPLAN 2017 paper test timetable](image_url)
NAPLAN ONLINE IN 2018
Moving NAPLAN online brings many new opportunities for students and teachers that are often limited or not possible with paper-based tests. Some of the main benefits of students taking part in NAPLAN Online include:

- Assessments will use a tailored test design. Students will answer an initial set of questions and then be directed to subsequent sets of questions based on the accuracy of their responses. Students with a high number of questions correct will be directed to more challenging questions. Students who have a lower level of accuracy in the initial set of questions will be directed to questions that are less challenging.
- Tailored testing will provide teachers and schools with more targeted and detailed information on their students’ performance on the tests.
- Use of a computer-based environment provides the opportunity to broaden the scope of the assessments.
- Delivery of assessments online will significantly reduce the time it takes to provide feedback to schools, students and parents.
- ACARA research into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with computer-based tests.

As technology develops, ACARA aims to further refine the delivery of the tests to best use the available technology to provide increasingly sophisticated assessments.

NAPLAN Online – key messages

- NAPLAN helps parents, carers and educators to see if children are meeting important numeracy and literacy standards. It is used to support school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor their students’ progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.
- NAPLAN provides parents and carers with an individual report, showing their child’s results and a national comparison of their child’s performance against other Australian students in their year level.
- Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that NAPLAN will move online from 2017, over a two-to-three year period.
- NAPLAN Online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information.
- NAPLAN Online will mean that the tests better meet the needs of all students, including those with a disability.
- NAPLAN Online will use ‘tailored testing’, which gives students questions better suited to their ability, resulting in better assessment and more precise results.
- The precision and improved timing of the results will help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.
- Currently, an online national assessment platform is being built by Education Services Australia with funds from the Australian Government.
- Significant planning, development, research and trialling are going on behind the scenes to make sure we are all ready to move NAPLAN online.
- The online national assessment platform is being built and will be used to trial online assessment in 2016. The platform will also be used to deliver NAP: civics and citizenship in 2016.
- State/territory education authorities will make decisions about the logistics and timing to move NAPLAN online for their state/territory. These groups will also lead implementation in their state/territory.
- For schools that are not able to access the internet to the required level for online testing, alternative information technology solutions will be available.

OUR SCHOOL REVIEW
There will be a full school review held from 13-Mar-17 to 15-Mar-17–week 8 Term 1 2017. The Department of Education and Training introduced new performance reviews for Queensland state schools in 2015. The reviews are conducted by the department’s School Improvement Unit.

The reviews do not rate or compare schools but provide independent and quality feedback to help schools continue to improve outcomes for students. All schools have a review at least every four years. Key findings from the review are made available to parents and the community on the school’s website. As part of the review, the review team would like to hear from our school community and I encourage anyone who is interested to have their say. Your feedback is important and will help us continue to deliver a quality education for students. Feedback can be provided to the review team by phone or in person. All feedback remains confidential. If you are interested in speaking to the reviewers, or would like more information about the review process, please contact the school office or email the review team at SIUMB@dete.qld.gov.au.

Further information about the reviews is available from the department’s website at: schoolreviews.eq.edu.au.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS
Each class teacher will arrange a time for parent/teacher meetings before the end of week 4 Term 1. These meetings outline teacher expectations about class rules, class routines and transitions, homework and curriculum. Watch out for this.

ATTENDANCE: Our 2017 Target is 93%.
For week 1 Term 1 we exceeded this target and our attendance Prep to Year 6 was 93.4%. Thanks to all parents and carers for ensuring your child/ren get into a regular attendance routine for 2017.

Attendance percentages for last week were as follows: Prep 94.8%; Prep/Year 1 92.5%; Year 2 94.4%; Year 3 94.8%; Year 4 91.8%; Year 5 90.3%; Year 6 94.2%.

Congratulations to Prep and Year 3 for the best attenders for the first week of school 2017.
NEXT PARADE ON
Monday, 6th February – 2.30pm - 3pm
CELEBRATION PARADE
Parents & caregivers are cordially invited to attend parade to support their child as they receive their well earned reward certificates!

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
PREP: Latoya Newton, Riley Cordell
PREP/1: Maddison Mackinon, Sarah Nichols, Ashleigh Hawkswood
YEAR 2: Georgia Marks, Aylah Butchart
YEAR 3: Ebony Marshall, Kane Rumney
YEAR 4: Teegan Puxty, Joshua Ford
YEAR 5: Skylar Gilroy, Toby Neilen
YEAR 6: Angie Van Hees, Leyton Prenner
HPE: Stephanie Barrow, Joshua Ford

Chaplain’s Corner
My name is Wendy Chapman and I am the school chaplain for Blackbutt State School. I am at the school each Wednesday and can be contacted via Admin. Chappies provide spiritual and emotional support to school communities. They are in the prevention and support business: helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from family breakdown and loneliness to drug abuse, depression and anxiety. Chaplains provide a listening ear and a caring presence for children and young people in crisis and those who just need a friend. They also provide support for staff and parents in school communities.

Wendy Chapman (School Chaplain)

PROCESS TO ACCESS SUPPORT OF SCHOOL CHAPLAIN MRS WENDY CHAPMAN: The process for Mrs Chapman to support our students is: Mrs Chapman can visit with your child for one initial discussion before being required to seek parent/carer permission; Mrs Chapman will send out a permission form for parents and carers to complete and return asking for parent permission to support your child with more pastoral care sessions. If you think your child could benefit from additional support sessions with Mrs Chapman please sign and return the permission form asap.

REQUEST FOR PRIVATE DONATIONS FOR SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY
Any parents or carers who wish to donate to support the school’s Chaplaincy Program. This could be a one off amount, or we can organise for regular amounts to be donated. Please contact the office staff, principal or our Chaplain to organise.

TUCKSHOP HELP NEEDED
We are looking for a TUCKSHOP CONVENOR!! Unfortunately if we do not have a convenor we will not be able to have TUCKSHOP.
When we have a convenor in place we will also be asking for volunteers to help our convenor each week!!!
If you are able to help, please let the school admin know.

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop is open on Monday afternoons from 3:00 to 3:20pm and Friday mornings from 8:15 to 8:45pm.
The school is wanting any second-hand shirts, so if students are finished (outgrown etc) with the current style, please consider donating their shirts for the second hand uniform scheme. Please deliver to the school administration.

Breakfast Club
Breakfast Club is starting next week Tuesday and Thursday from 8.15am
Thanks to our wonderful volunteers who help out week after week.

REMINDER TO PARENTS
LAST WEEK THERE WAS A STUDENT CONTACT DETAIL UPDATE FORM SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD. COULD YOU PLEASE FILL IN AND RETURN ASAP.
THANKYOU

OUR NEW HOMEWORK POLICY: We have developed a 2017 homework policy. Please go to our school website and read through the policy. The beginning of the policy states this: It is a requirement for all Queensland State Schools to develop a school homework policy in consultation with the school community — as specified in Policy statement: Homework. At Blackbutt State School we believe that homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, community and cultural pursuits. At Blackbutt State School, teachers will ask parents/caregivers if they would like homework provided for their children. Teachers will provide homework to those students whose parents/caregivers request it and will mark/provide regular feedback to children who consistently complete their homework. At Blackbutt State School, there will be no negative consequences assigned by school staff at school for students who fail to complete or return their homework. Students will not miss out on Fun Friday, or play time at school to complete homework. After all, it’s homework – work completed at home.
STUDENTS ARRIVING EARLY TO SCHOOL
If you find that you need to have your child/ren at school early – pre 8am, the school policy asks that parents/carers contact the office and let office staff know that this is going to happen. If we know beforehand, we can put in place some interim supervision arrangements.
Parents and carers should be aware that there are no staff on rostered supervision prior to 8.15am most days at school.

NEWS FLASH!

Our Belief:
Every Child Matters Every Day and All Students Can succeed

Our School Mantra:
Every decision we make and every action we take will be for the benefit of the child as a whole; socially, emotionally and academically

Our 3 School Rules:
Be safe, Be Responsible, Be a Learner

For information on other staff members please go to the school’s website.

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NEWS FLASH!

Expression of Interest!!!
Tuck Shop Co-Ordinators for 2017. Sandra and Sarah have finished their Tuckshop adventure so we are asking if anyone would be interested in taking over the role for 2017 and beyond. Tuckshop will not commence until we have a new convenor. If there are any parents/carers who can volunteer to help run our tuckshop please phone the school office on 4170 2222.

TERM 1 ROSTER OF PARADE PERFORMANCES AND DISPLAY OF STUDENT WORK OUTSIDE OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Parade Performance</th>
<th>Display of Student Work outside the office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Year 1 THRASS</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Year 3 THRASS</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Year 4 Writing</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Prep</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
IMPACT BOOSTER ONLINE PROGRAMS

Students at Blackbutt State School began an interesting learning journey this week - they started online Impact Booster programs. There are two programs students have the opportunity to participate in: Writing - Just Write and Numeracy - Solve It. Just Write students discover how successful writers create ideas and engage an audience. They practise the craft of writing, constructing sentences and passages that convey subject matter, mode and tenor. Solve It provides capable mathematics students with a process for solving problems as well as a bank of problem-solving strategies to use on demand. Students also develop literacy skill needed to interpret questions correctly. This is all achieved via web conferencing in an online learning environment involving other Queensland students. Round One involves students in Year 3 and Year 5. Students selection was based on academic performance and attendance data collected throughout 2016. The online session are for one hour each and will occur over the next twelve weeks. Round Two and Three involves selected students in Year 2 and Year 4. Congratulations to Lynleigh Beutel, Timothy Ford, Jaimee Hunt, Indigo Leyland, Jazz Mladenovic, Kirsten Ruhl, Lacey Stretton, Mikayla Butler, Matthew Badesso, Tia Mladenovic, Nathan Martin, Pete Lawton, Michael Lane, Brock Reiser, Zoe Gee, Alysha Goetz, Ashlyn Daly and Skylar Gilroy.

SENIOR STUDENTS: Senior Chess Club will be starting this week on Friday 3rd Feb at 2nd break in the Yr 6 Room. Term 1 Chess will be for experienced players. Term 2 we will start a Beginners Class. Chess will be with Mr Bishton.

SWIMMING

Swimming begins this Thursday 2 February. Please ensure students have returned their permission note, have all belongings labelled and are prepared for their lesson on Thursday. Swimming will run every Thursday for five weeks, concluding Thursday 2 March.

Natasha Miller - Acting Deputy Principal and HPE Teacher
NANANGO SOCCER CLUB

Sign On Day

ALL WELCOME!

Saturday 11th February

Burnett Street Soccer Fields

9:30am - 12:30pm

Returning and new players self-register online to save time. EASY

Visit: www.myfootballclub.com.au

Junior girls and boys aged from turning 5 yrs in 2017, through to 16yrs.

(Stillsfoot Kick Off-U7’s-Swans girls and boys aged from turning 3 yrs in 2017 to 5 yrs self to follow later in the season.)

Club is registered with Get Started funding program to assist eligible children with fees

(Opening for round 6 of Get Started Vouchers 29th January)


For further info on fees and general enquiries:
nanangosoccer@gmail.com

Do you have young children?

Find out about the awesome activities and events around the local area. Join the new community Facebook page especially for families like you!

South Burnett
Under 4’s Network

https://www.facebook.com/58Under4sNetwork

Activities
Information
Community events