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

THANKS TO YOU ALL

Student Leaders Speeches : At whole school assembly on Monday 28 November 2.00pm to 3.00pm, the Year 5 students who have nominated to be a school captain/vice-captain and/or sports captain/vice-captain in 2017 will be presenting their two minute speeches. The speeches will outline why each candidate thinks they would make a great school leader in 2017. Students from years 3 to 6 will be asked to vote for their favourite candidate on Tuesday 29 November in class. Staff attending the whole school parade will be asked to complete staff voting forms at parade on the day. Parents/carers and visitors to parade will be asked to complete parent/carer voting forms at parade on the day. The votes will be counted in week 9. The 2017 student captains and vice-captains will be announced at the whole school end of term celebration parade the following Monday 5 December 2pm to 3pm. All parents and carers of year 5 candidates are encouraged to attend the week 9 parade to hear the speeches and vote.

Thanks for our 2016 Captains and Vice-Captains. You’ve done a wonderful job and have fulfilled your responsibilities in the leadership positions admirably.

Great News! Blackbutt State School receives more funding for the Chaplaincy Program for 2017

I am pleased to tell you that Blackbutt State School has been selected for additional funding under the National School Chaplaincy Programme (NSCP) for the 2017 and 2018 school years. This funding complements the current allocation Blackbutt State School already receives under the recurrent State Government Chaplaincy/Student Welfare Funding Program. Mrs Wendy Chapman has been supporting our school for one day per fortnight under the current State Government Chaplaincy/Student Welfare Funding Program. With the new allocation from the National School Chaplaincy Programme (NSCP), Mrs Chapman will be able to support Blackbutt State School children for one day each week for the next two years.

Preventing and Managing Snake Bites

In these warmer months there is an increased risk that snakes will be around.

Snakes come out of hibernation during the warmer months and in urban areas will inevitably move into, or near places where people live and work in search of food or a mate.

Snakes may have found quiet shelter at your workplace whilst the site has been vacant over weekends or holiday breaks. Cool, dark protected areas such as under buildings and near sheds, around rubble and stored materials, and in long grass are typical areas that snakes may be found. As with all Australian native animals, snakes are protected under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and cannot lawfully be killed or taken from the wild and held in captivity. It can often be difficult to tell the difference between a venomous and non-venomous snake therefore people are wise to call for professional help as snake bites can easily occur if inexperienced people interfere with snakes. Snakes are not usually aggressive and do not seek confrontation with humans but may retaliate if provoked. The important thing to remember is to never attempt to catch or kill a snake – most snake bites occur when people are trying to do this. It is not necessary to try and identify the type of snake as if a person is bitten, physicians may be able to identify the type of snake from residual venom on the skin. Also, for many Australian snakes, a polyvalent anti venom (anti venom that is effective for multiple species of snake) is often sufficient for treatment of snake bites.

I would ask all parents and carers to talk about our Snake Policy below with their child/ren.
THE ANNUAL ARCHIE MUIR BURSARY

I am proud to announce that for the first time we will be offering one girl and one boy in year 6 a bursary prize. This will be an annual event from 2016 onwards. The selected students will receive a digital device such as a laptop/computer that they can use for their high school studies. Mr Archie Muir was a well-known local resident of Blackbutt who ran the local garage for many years. When he passed away, some time ago, at the age of 74, he bequeathed some money to support the adolescents of Blackbutt State School. I was contacted by Mr Barry Sutherland who is the fund manager for the Archie Muir Trust offering to set up this annual bursary for Blackbutt State School.

All year 6 students will be given the opportunity to complete an application form in week 8 to be judged in week 9 and the computers will be presented to the two successful year 6 students at the Year 6 graduation dinner in week 10—Tuesday 6 December. There is some information about this bursary on the school’s new website.

PREP ORIENTATION DAY - MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER 9AM TO 11.30AM
On Monday 5 December, we are hosting a Prep Orientation morning for our 2017 prep students and their families. The morning begins at 9am with information about starting in prep for 2017. At 10am the 2017 prep students will be invited to participate in a prep class activity until 10.45am. At 10.45am, the 2017 prep students will eat with the current 2016 prep students and play with them at first break. After first break at 11.30, the 2017 prep students will head home for a much needed rest.

MEET THE NEW TEACHERS
On Monday 5 December, all classes will re-locate to their next year classrooms from 10.00am to 10.45am and spend this time with their 2017 teacher in their 2017 classroom. Our two new teachers to the school for 2017, Mr Lewis Bishton and Mr Keith Perrett will be at Blackbutt State School to spend some time with their 2017 class on this day.

COME ALONG FOR CELEBRATION PARADE : MONDAY 5 DECEMBER : Parents and carers are invited to come along to our whole school parade from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. This is a special celebratory parade with lots of certificates being given to students.

JOIN US IN A CHRISTMAS SING ‘A’ LONG—THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER—2 PM TO 3PM
We are going to have a Christmas singalong in the school hall. Every class will perform an item for this singalong and we will be singing our favourite Christmas carols throughout the time. Please come along and join in the Christmas singalong.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION DINNER TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER- 6.30pm to 9pm
Invitations have been sent out to all parents/carers of year 6 students inviting them to attend a graduation dinner at the Blackbutt Golf Club at 6.30pm to 9pm. Payments for dinner should be pre-paid and forwarded to the office.
ART: Lucie Heilig
Bryce Lees
HPE: Michael Lane, Thomas Abbott & McGregor-Crase
Year 6: Lauren Beutel
Year 5: Matthew Courtney, Chanell Mills & Mackenzie Sakowski & Lynleigh Beutel
Year 2: Indigo Leyland, Mikayla Butler & Lynleigh Beutel
Year 3: WHOLE CLASS
Year 4: Matthew Badosso, Cameron Mills & Mackenzie Sakowski
Year 5: Matthew Courtney, Chanell McGregor-Crase
Year 6: Lauren Beutel
HPE: Michael Lane, Thomas Abbott & Bryce Lees

NEXT PARADE ON
Monday, 28th November–2.30pm -3pm
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: Kyan Leyland & Ashleigh Hawkswood
Year 1: Jimi Christie, Warren Newton, Wynter Anthony-Morris & Nikita Saunders
Year 2: Indigo Leyland, Mikayla Butler & Lynleigh Beutel
Year 3: WHOLE CLASS
Year 4: Matthew Badosso, Cameron Mills & Mackenzie Sakowski
Year 5: Matthew Courtney, Chanell McGregor-Crase
Year 6: Lauren Beutel
HPE: Michael Lane, Thomas Abbott & Bryce Lees

Expression of Interest!!!
Tuck Shop Co-Ordinators for 2017. Sandra and Sarah are finishing their Tuckshop adventure at the end of this year. So we are seeing if anyone would be interested in taking over the role for 2017 and beyond. Tuckshop will end on the 2nd of December 2016.

ART: Lucie Heilig

Chaplain’s Corner

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.

IS THE COST OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS, HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND TOILETRIES GETTING BEYOND YOU?
The South Burnett Pantry might be the answer:
- The Pantry is open every Friday from 8.30-12.30
- First time customers need to register at the check-in desk and every week people pay a $40 handling fee for the hamper. The hamper includes your choice of fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, bread fresh or frozen, meat/chicken/fish, frozen dairy products, a selection of tinned and packaged foods as well as toiletries, household cleaners and baby items. YOU CHOOSE THE ITEMS YOU WANT.
- PANTRY ADDRESS: 22 Stolzenberg Road Kingaroy
- Nanango Wesleyan Methodist Church also has a pantry every Thursday morning in the side Street Heritage Bank is on.
- Cost of their hamper $20
- If you need emotional support or just someone to chat with I am at Blackbutt School every second Wednesday.
- Wendy Chapman (Chaplain)

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.

Year 6 Camp
Thump! Thump! That was the sound of my heart banging inside my chest. I am going higher and higher while my classmates pull the rope levering me toward the top. I reach the highest point of the 15 metre giant swing and see an endless amount of roof tops surrounding Currumundi Beach Camp. I hear the instructor yell ‘3, 2, 1!’ Whooosh! I swing back and forth through the clean ocean air. The year 6 class and I were having a blast at Currumundi Recreation Camp!
We began this week with stand up paddle boarding at Currumundi Lake. This was a great way to begin the week. Once told all the techniques and skills, we were able to test it out ourselves. One by one we pushed our paddle boards into the murky lake. Standing up was a challenge, but was very thrilling. Zooming down the stream, a sting ray swam under Sienna and Jarra’s boards, they got a shock when they saw it and warned others not to fall off. This was a very fun way to start the camp.
‘Torches on!’ ordered the instructor as he turned the lights out. We were about to enter the man-made caves. I could see narrow holes leading to different locations. We hopped into our lines and got ready to enter. Following the person in front throughout the tunnels, I felt a shock of fear. I don’t like tight spaces. I pushed myself and tried to stay calm. I felt bumps along the surface of the caves and knocked into stalactites hanging from the top. Reaching the end of the cave, I saw a dim light and crawled towards it. I had completed the caves.
Entering the rock climbing facility, everyone felt a wave of excitement run over their bodies. I could see different coloured studs on the rock wall heading right to the top of the very tall room. We wore harnesses and a helmet. My partner for rock climbing was Sienna. Rock climbing was very enjoyable but at the same time challenging. Depending on your confidence level you could choose different difficulty rock courses varying from easy to hard.
‘10 points and another bullseye!’ I yelled as I hit the target with my arrow. We were doing archery in the hall which was really fun. We had to get into groups of five or six and I thought my group was really talented. Everyone had a chance of hitting the target and we had to calculate our scores. At the end of archery, our team had come 2nd in points with a score of around 150.
All students came back from Currumundi different from the students who came in. From learning to balance on a paddle board to building clear quick communication skills in the caves we all learnt something new. Every day was challenging, including having to build up the confidence to go to the top of the giant swing or even just getting up in the morning and facing the day without Mum, every student tried their hardest at Currumundi and that’s how we made it through the week.
Written by Lauren Beutel and Roan Perkins-McAuley
THE LAST WEEK OF TERM

Events for the last week of term are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>5 December 2016</td>
<td>9am to 11:30am</td>
<td>PREP ORIENTATION MORNING SCHOOL HALL &amp; MEET YOUR NEXT YEAR’S TEACHER&lt;br&gt;New Prep parents participate in orientation in the hall and join their 2017 prep students in the Prep classroom, stay for first break and play with the current Prep students and leave at 11:30 pm. Current Prep students are relocated to year 1 classroom and participate in activities in year 1 during this first session. Year 1 moves to year 2. Year 2 moves to year 3. Year 3 moves to year 4. Year 4 moves to year 5. Year 5 moves to year 6. Year 6 relocates to computer lab. Time for teachers to meet their new classes and spend a session with them.</td>
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<td>2pm to 3pm</td>
<td>WHOLE SCHOOL CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY&lt;br&gt;Prep to Year 6 in the school hall includes announcement of 2017 school captains and vice-captains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>6 December 2016</td>
<td>6pm to 9pm</td>
<td>YEAR 6 GRADUATION DINNER&lt;br&gt;Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7 December 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>REPORT CARDS&lt;br&gt;Report cards go home&lt;br&gt;Champions BBQ &amp; Platinum Party Time TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8 December 2016</td>
<td>9am to 2pm</td>
<td>CLASS PARTY DAY&lt;br&gt;Individual classes organise their own days&lt;br&gt;CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION&lt;br&gt;Whole school sing-a-long in hall performing Christmas Carols – each class performs something. Announce the year 6 award recipients</td>
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<td>2pm to 3pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9 December 2016</td>
<td>9am to 3pm</td>
<td>CLEAN AND MOVE DAY&lt;br&gt;Students help with clean up. Staff move into 2017 teacher rooms.</td>
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BOOKCLUB NOTICE: Final bookclub for the year has been given out to all students. Please have orders returned to the school administration by Friday, 25 November. Ensure orders are named and correct money is enclosed if sending in cash.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NOTICE: Library classes finish next week, with no more books being loaned out. Please take the time to locate school library books and return over the final weeks of school. Thanks, Mrs Gormley (Library aide)

FUNDRAISING NOTICE: CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WILL BE STARTING SOON, CHRISTMAS DONATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED, some donations have already started coming in. Raffle tickets will be going out this week! Regards Jenniel

SOME 2017 EVENTS
OUR SCHOOL PRIORITY FOR 2017
Next year we will be focusing in improving the teaching and learning of writing inclusive of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

MEET AND GREET SESSION-20 JANUARY 2017
Next year on Friday 20 January 2017, parents and carers will be invited to meet their new teachers from 11.00 am to 12.00 pm and put away their children’s school books et al prior to school starting on the following Monday 23 January 2017. Please mark this date into your calendar and come along next year to meet the new teacher/s for your child/ren.

THRASS PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2017
Next year, we will be offering a THRASS workshop for parents and carers on Tuesday 17 January 2017 from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm. This workshop will be presented by presenters from the THRASS Institute who will be working with all school staff during Tuesday 17 January and Wednesday 18 January. THRASS will be re-invigorated at Blackbutt State School to ensure we are using a consistent sounds to letters program from Prep to Year 6. Please mark this date and time into your calendar for 2017.
OUR LEARNING FOCUS FOR TERM 4 IS READING

In week 5 or mid-term, class teachers and specialist teachers met together with me to conduct case conferences for every student in the school. These conferences were held to look at the learning progress in reading and identify some targeted support that may be required to ensure every student improves. We documented the support and learning goals in a personalised support plan for every child. During these case conference meetings, we looked closely at the attendance percentage of every student.

If students are attending below 85%, we support those students by working together to improve their attendance at school as a first priority. These students receive normal classroom adjustments and interventions until their attendance at school improves. If the attendance percentage is 85% and above, we offer more intensive classroom intervention and adjustments to improve the learning. The message is very clear. If children attend school regularly, they can develop consistent learning routines. Our school data shows that when children attend school consistently, every day, they do achieve better results academically. If children have poor, irregular attendance at school, they find it difficult to develop consistency around learning routines and are often involved in classroom work that is trying to ‘make-up’ the work that they have missed at school. This approach makes it difficult for these children to achieve to their learning potential. As a parent/carer, you have agreed that you will ensure your children attend school every day. This is one of the conditions of the enrolment. If your child/ren is/are attending less than 85% of the time at school, please help us to help your child/ren and get them to school every day.

OUR READING BOOKMARK: This term every child in the school will be using a specially created reading bookmark in class during reading time to help with their reading. A copy of this bookmark appeared in our last newsletter. Parents and carers are able to purchase one of these specially printed bookmarks to keep at home for 70c per bookmark. These can be purchased at the office.

REQUEST TO REGISTER YOUR NAME AS A PARENT VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT READING ROTATIONS

If you would like to volunteer to support your child’s class or another child’s class in reading on a weekly basis until the end of this term, Prep to Year 4 classes have their reading rotations in the mornings from 8.45am to 10.45am. Years 5 & 6 classes have some of their reading rotations from 11.30 to 12.15pm. We are asking for reading support volunteers to give 45 minutes of their time once or twice a week every

STUDENTS ARRIVING EARLY TO SCHOOL

If you find that you need to have your children at school early – pre 8.00am, 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.

EMAILING REPORT CARDS AT THE END OF THIS SEMESTER

At the end of this semester we will be emailing report cards to all parents who have an email address. Please visit the office or phone the school to let us know your current email address. The class teachers will be asking you for this over the coming term.

Please ensure that you have given the office staff your current email address.

Please add OneSchool.application@dete.qld.gov.au to your list of safe senders to ensure report card emails aren’t sent to the Junk folder. Emailed report cards will only have the Principal’s signature on them. You will notice on the emailed report cards that the teacher’s signature field is blank. There is no facility to upload the teacher’s signature into One School at this time.

ATTENDANCE-EVERY DAY, EVERY HOUR, EVERY MINUTE COUNTS AT BLACKBUTT STATE SCHOOL

It’s week 8 of Term 4 and our overall attendance for the term is 92.6%.

Congratulations to our year 5’s and Ms Pocock for being the best school attenders for the last week with 93.7%.

The attendance percentages for each class for last week are:

- Preps 92.1%
- Year 1’s 90.2%
- Year 2’s 93.4%
- Yr 3s 93.3%
- Yr 4’s 93.6%
- Yr 5’s 93.7% and Yr 6’s 90.5%

Thanks to all parents and carers- for the first time this term, every class’s attendance was above 90%.

Kids Matter at Blackbutt State School

Information included in the this weeks newsletter is for families and carers about “What makes a Positive School Community”. Each fortnight fact sheets appear in the newsletter and they are a great source of information and a very easy read. I encourage all parents and carers to take the time to reflect on the messages included to assist us all in nurturing the development of children.
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

Positive Behaviour Milestones
A special congratulations go to the following students who have reached the following Buzz Button Milestones.

50 Buzz Buttons Reached
Year 1: Jimi Christie, Kris McCrory
Year 2: Noah Badesso, Lucas Betts, Timothy Ford, Myles Narracott, Tyson Saunders, Mikayla Butler, Ellie Heilig, Jaimee Hunt, Lacey Stretton

100 Buzz Buttons Reached
Prep: Codi Green
Year 1: Penelope Adkins, Ella Bleakley, Mila Chmirow, Gemmason Green, Emilee Holmfield, Sarah McDonnell
Year 2: Jazz Madenovic
Year 4: Cameron Mills, Lane Packer, Cameron Redlich
Year 6: Jacob Forrester, Luca Lazzaroni, Jarra Stuhmcke, Mara Dorman

150 Buzz Buttons Reached
Year 1: Georgia Marks
Year 4: Summa Collins
Year 6: Kiara McCormick

200 Buzz Buttons Reached
Year 4: Logan Christie, Toby Neilen, Alysha Goetze, Tia Mladenovic

250 Buzz Buttons Reached
Year 4: Ashlyn Daly

Every Day Counts at Blackbutt State School.
Your child needs to be at school every day that they possibly can.
2016 Term 4 target is to be above 93%
**TUCKSHOP**

Ensure you use the latest order forms and put orders in at the tuckshop Thursday mornings. 25th November is the last day for tuckshop this year. Thankyou to all for your support this year.

Volunteers wanted! If you are able to help, please let the school admin know or contact Sarah or Sandra.

Please have your orders in Thursday to the tuckshop.

*Our wonderful Tuckshop ladies are looking for someone new to take over tuckshop next year. If you are interested please contact Sarah or Sandra in the tuckshop on Fridays.*

**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 chasing 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**

Our wonderful Breakfast Club operates every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8am – 8:45am.

*We ask for your support with donations.*
2017 MINING SCHOLARSHIP

This could be the key to your future!

Dowler Mining and Stanwell have established the Mandalu Mine Technical Mining Study Support Scholarship. This is a great opportunity to develop professionally, and gain financial assistance and support whilst studying to become a Mining, Geotechnical, Mineral Processing, Mechanical or Civil Engineer at a relevant tertiary institution.

We develop our people into future leaders. We recognize talent which is why we offer this amazing scholarship program.

ABOUT YOU

- A strong academic record
- A strong voluntary community service ethic
- A commitment to study Mining, Geotechnical, Mineral Processing or Mechanical Engineer
- Enrolment in a relevant Degree course at a tertiary institution
- South Burnett Region residency
- Alignment with Dowler’s values
- Motivation and drive to succeed.

IN RETURN WE OFFER

- Work in a business where there’s room to grow and a team that will support your journey
- Access to a range of mentors and technical experts within Dowler Mining
- Paid vacation work which will contribute towards field experience course requirements
- Rotation through various specialties to increase exposure to the business
- Scholarship payments of $5,000 at the end of each semester of successful study, maintaining a GPA of 6 (at the discretion of Stanwell and Dowler Mining)
- A diverse and supportive team where individuals are encouraged to grow.

To apply, go to our website www.dowlermining.com and quote reference number DSS719.

For further information please contact Chrys McDuffie on 07 4160 7265.

You will be required to submit your full Year 12 academic transcript along with your resume and a covering letter telling us why you should be a 2017 Scholar.

Applications close Friday, 16th December 2016.
What feeling included is all about

Children come from an endless range of different families, backgrounds, cultures and religions. They also have a variety of interests, learning styles and abilities. Despite all these differences, everyone should feel included and welcome within their school community.

Positive school communities create opportunities for children, families and staff to feel included. They make help and support accessible and find lots of ways to invite people to take up the support being offered. They help everyone benefit from understanding experiences and cultures that may be different to their own.

When children feel included, when they are part of a community that promotes inclusion and respect for everybody, they show more caring and compassion towards others, and they feel safer and more secure. They are also better learners and have better mental health and wellbeing. In a positive school community every face has a place, every voice is valued, and everyone has something to contribute.

School communities from around Australia choose care, compassion, respect, understanding and inclusion as important values for children to understand. These are things that children can learn about. The best learning happens when children see the adults around them putting values like these into practice. Feeling included is important for mental health, and is supported best when diversity is respected and valued.

Being included and learning to include and respect others are very important for children’s social development.

Being included promotes belonging and connectedness, which are also key factors for supporting children’s mental health and wellbeing.

Some ways of showing people they are welcomed and included at school

- Display information, posters, and artwork that reflect the diversity in the school community.
- Provide information in appropriate languages, verbally, when possible, as well as in written form.
- Cater to specific needs where possible (eg dietary needs, access needs).
- Publicly celebrate diversity (eg diverse families, cultures, languages and values).

How parents and carers can help

- Get to know other families, take an interest in others’ different backgrounds as well as what you have in common.
- Set up a ‘buddy’ system where families who have been at the school for a while buddy up with new families to provide welcome and support.
- Encourage children to include and appreciate others’ cultural and individual differences.

What makes a positive school community?

“Mum, Miss Collins told me to be sure you go to the school for the meeting tonight. She says it’s very important.” “You’re not in trouble, are you Omar? Teachers only ask parents to come to school when there is a problem, don’t they?” “No Mum. She says she is looking forward to meeting you.”

When Rasheeda got to the meeting it wasn’t as she had expected. Lots of other parents were there and they were talking with each other and with the teacher. It seemed quite friendly. The teacher explained what the children would be learning in school this term and then asked the parents to talk to two different people they didn’t know.

Rasheeda felt a bit shy about this. Luckily, the other parents at her table started talking to her. They asked her what school was like in her home country. “Oh, very different!” she told them. “Over there the teacher talks and the children listen. They don’t learn in groups. They start early and they go home at lunchtime.” The other parents seemed interested.

Miss Collins also spoke with her. “Rasheeda, I wonder if there’s anything more you would like to know about how Omar is going or what we are doing at school? We want to be sure you feel welcome, so if there is anything the school can do to help you or Omar settle in, please let us know.”

Positive school communities create opportunities for families, children and staff to feel included.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au