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

WELCOME BACK FROM MRS WILLIAMSON - PRINCIPAL

Hi everyone. It’s great to have you back at our wonderful school safe and sound. We have had a very smooth start to our new school year. Our staff have been working hard before school began and have completed four pupil free days. These days involved THRASS training and completion of compulsory training modules for EQ staff as well as planning and preparation for 2017.

Enrolment Numbers: Our student numbers can change each day during the start of the year. At the start of the year, we are required to lodge two returns on Day 4/Friday 27 January and Day 8/Thursday 2 February to our Regional Office. Higher student numbers in the lower part of the school have meant the formation of a Prep/Year 1 class with Ms Wright as the teacher. This new class has already been formed. Thank you to those parents who have re-located their Prep child to this new class.

New school sign: Have you noticed our new sign showing the location of Blackbutt State School? My thanks to Councillor Gavin Jones for working with the South Burnett Council to ensure this sign was in place for the start of the school year.

Great News: We have been successful in being selected for Gambling Community Fund Benefit grant of $27 600.00. We applied for this funding to create shade over the school playgrounds (forts). My special thanks to Mr Alan Mitchell who wrote and submitted the application for this grant.

Our first P&C Meeting will be on Monday 13 February from 4.30pm to 5.30pm in the meeting room. All parents/carers are welcome to participate. Key P&C positions-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fund-Raiser are available for all who wish to nominate. These positions will be filled by voting at the P&C’s AGM in March (Date tba).

Music: Our music teacher will now be Mr Adam Friend who will teach music on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as Ms Madeline Williams (who was going to be our music teacher) has relocated to another Region.

OUR SCHOOL PRIORITY FOR 2017

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 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.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
BLACKBUTT STATE SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2017

SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2017 (centre, middle row)
*CLAIRE STRETTON
*RAYMOND MARSHALL
KENDALL HOUSE CAPTAIN
*MATTHEW McAULIFFE (middle back row)

VICE SCHOOL CAPTAINS
*LILLYANA BEUTEL (back row far right)
*GEORGE ADKINS (middle row far left)
KENDALL VICE HOUSE CAPTAIN
*CHANELL McGREGOR-CRASE (back row far left)

LAWSON HOUSE CAPTAIN
*IMOGEN HUNT (front row far right)

LAWSON VICE HOUSE CAPTAIN
*THOMAS ABBOTT (front row on left kneeling)

PEER MENTORS
*HOLLEY NEWTON (front far left), *LILLY HEILIG (middle row on right), *JARRAH WEEKS (front row on right kneeling)

There will be an induction assembly on Monday week 3 or 6 February 2.00pm to 3.00pm to welcome our new leaders, present badges and certificates. Our special guest for the assembly will be Councillor Gavin Jones. This group will be attending a special student leadership day called GRIP in Kingaroy on 13 March.

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.

ATTENTION PREP PARENTS: Swimming
Swimming starts next Thursday 2nd February. Parents and carers please be advised that Mr Matthew Wild will assist the boys to change into their swimmers at the school. Parents and carers are encouraged to come to the school and help their child change into their swimmers if this is required. PRIOR TO SWIMMING SESSION STARTING (preps swimming sessions starts at 12pm sharp) If your child requires help changing could we please ask if you are needing to help them that you come in around 11.30 please.

Our kids matter.
KidsMatter helps our school nurture happy, balanced kids.

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NEXT PARADE ON
Monday, 30th January – 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: Zac Canning, Hailee Saunders
YEAR 1: Kyan Leyland, Tyler Pain
YEAR 2: Nikita Saunders, Declan Abnett
YEAR 3: Alex McMahan, Seth Hallinan-Jarvis
YEAR 4: Danielle Abbott, Trey Graham
YEAR 5: Tia Mladenovic, Mackenzie Sakowski
YEAR 6: Claire Stretton, Alicia Sakowski

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.

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

Volunteers wanted! AND A CONVENOR!!
If you are able to help, please let the school admin know.

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
This is the last week for Breakfast Club
Thanks to our wonderful volunteers who help out week after week. We hope to continue working with you next year.

ATTENTION PARENTS
THERE WILL BE A STUDENT CONTACT DETAIL UPDATE FORM BEING SENT HOME TODAY WITH YOUR CHILD. PLEASE FILL IN AND RETURN ASAP.
THANKYOU

Kids Matter at Blackbutt State School

Information included in the last week’s newsletter was 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.
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!!!
ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

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

Our School Mantra:
Every decision we make and every ac-
tion 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

OUR TEACHERS AND SPECIALIST TEACHING STAFF FOR 2017
A/DP
Ms Natasha Miller (3 days per week-Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

Prep
Ms Stacey Hazell

Prep/Year 1
Ms Shannon Wright

Year 1/Year 2
Ms Simone Newitt

Year 3
Ms Laura Hanton

Year 4
Mr Justin Perrin

Year 5
Mr Keith Perrett

Year 6
Mr Lewis Bishon

Music
Mr Adam Friend (2 days per week- Tuesday and Wednesday)

HPE
Ms Natasha Miller (2 days per week- Thurs & Fri)

Head of Curriculum
Ms Laura Hanton (1 day per week – Friday)

Behaviour Support
Ms Vicki Matthews (every Wednesday)

Guidance Officer
Mrs Narelle Sanford (half day Wednesdays)

Principal
Mrs Gayle Williamson

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

MEET AND GREET SESSION-20 JANUARY 2017
Thank you for participating in our first Meet and Greet session on Friday 20 January. This made our first day back at school much easier for all concerned. I’ve received very positive feedback about this day and we will be doing this again in 2018.

STUDENTS ARRIVING EARLY TO SCHOOL
If you find that you need to have your children 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.

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P&C and Tuckshop news: Our tuckshop may not be operating this year. Our convenors Sarah Savage and Sandra Muirhead who worked so hard last year are going to have a well-earned rest this year. If there are any parents/carers who can volunteer to help run our tuckshop please phone the school office on 4170 2222.

Expression of Interest!!!
Tuck Shop Co-Ordinators for 2017. Sandra and Sarah have finished their Tuckshop adventure so we are seeing if anyone would be interested in taking over the role for 2017 and beyond. Tuckshop will not commence until we have a new convenor.

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%
South Burnett Regional Council and Bloomin' Beautiful Blackbutt Festival Committee invites you to

AUSTRALIA DAY
COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
BLACKBUTT 2017

Blackbutten Tennis Courts
8am - 10am
Free Bacon and Egg roll brekkie with cold drink
Bottomless tea and coffee
FREE Family Fun activities
Australia Day Trivia, crosswords, give-aways and colouring in
Jumping Castle & Tambooe Rural Fire Brigade display
Join in the fun with Avocado Roll, gumboot throw and rolling pin toss.

Positive Partnerships is coming to a location near you!
Join us for a day of learning with other parents and carers of school aged children on the autism spectrum, designed to help you foster productive school, family and community relationships to provide the best kind of support for your child. Our workshops are for parents, carers and grandparents wanting to understand more about autism and learn practical strategies using evidence-based resources to help maximise your young person’s learning.

What will you gain by attending this workshop?
- An increased understanding of the impact of autism
- Further knowledge about how to develop effective partnerships with your school
- Information to help you access further support both inside and outside of school
- An opportunity to be part of a support network where you can share strategies and experiences with other parents/carers
- An understanding of a planning tool that can be used to share key information related to your child

Workshop details
Venue:
Sunder Lodge Motel
110 Kingaroy Street
Kingaroy QLD 4610

When:
Wednesday 15 March 2017
9.15 am – 3.00 pm (Registration from 8.30 am)

Catering:
Morning tea and lunch is provided. Please advise any dietary requirements upon registration.

Register Online: www.positivepartnership.com.au. Registrations open on 8 December 2016 and close on business day prior to the workshop. Register early as places are limited.

Questions?
If you are not able to register online please call the Positive Partnerships hotline: 1300 881 971 or email parentsandcarers@positivepartnership.com.au

Cid Burke Occupational Health and Safety Study Support Scholarship
Stanwell Corporation Limited

This scholarship is provided in memory of Cid Burke, a valued and dedicated employee of Stanwell for more than 20 years. Cid Burke was passionate about Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and community service, and this scholarship aims to perpetuate his work in the South Burnett region.

Reflecting on Cid Burke’s passion, this scholarship has an emphasis on helping people who demonstrate commitment to their community and on gaining formal qualifications in OH&S.

The scholarship is to assist with course and associated study and living costs at a recognised tertiary institution. It also allows the recipient to receive assistance and guidance from an industry mentor and to take up paid employment with Stanwell when the opportunity arises.

Scholarship Information:
Annual $10,000 Scholarship (paid biannually)
- Eligible for the academic year following the year in which it was awarded and the subsequent years for up to four years
- Scholarship is confined to relevant studies in OH&S

Eligibility Guidelines:
- Sound academic record and enrolment (or a commitment to enrol) in a full certificate, diploma or degree course at a relevant tertiary institution
- Demonstrated commitment to the local community through voluntary contribution, and
- South Burnett region residency.

How to Apply:
All applicants must provide a cover letter outlining their suitability for this scholarship through their interest in OH&S, community service involvement and how the opportunity will support their career goals.

Applications must also include a current CV and any other supporting documentation they feel required.

Apply online at www.stanwell.com and any queries can be sent to careers@stanwell.com

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 10 February 2017
More ways schools can help create a sense of belonging

As part of KidsMatter Primary, schools look closely at ways they can continue to build strong positive respectful relationships with all students and families. This includes things like:

- making the school environment welcoming for all students and families
- encouraging teachers to get to know all their students and their families
- identifying ways of improving communication with families
- focusing on child and family strengths
- making sure that school policies on safety, welfare and discipline are clearly communicated and support a sense of belonging for children and families.

All children need to feel that school is a safe place.

How parents and carers can help

Parents and carers can work with school staff to help create a bridge between home and school. When the adults responsible for children take a positive interest in what happens at school it helps children feel at home. It also makes it easier to pick up any problems early when they are easiest to resolve.

- Find out about the school and what your child is learning; participate in information sessions.
- Make time to listen to your child tell you about what he or she is doing at school.
- Let your child’s teacher know if he/she is having difficulties and discuss what kinds of things you can do at home and school to help.

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

Belonging at school makes a difference


Aunt Sue also talked to Tommy’s friend, Lulu, who had come over to play. “What about you, Lulu? How do you like school?” “It’s good. If I need the teacher then I have to put up my hand, but if I need help at playtime I can ask Jackie,” said Lulu. “Is Jackie your friend?” “Jackie’s my buddy. She’s a big girl.” “What does a buddy do?” “She helps me if I don’t know where to go or other stuff. She helps to look after me too. She’s big and I’m new.”

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendships will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met, children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children’s mental health and wellbeing.

Children who feel that they belong at school are happier, more resilient and have fewer behavioral problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and be more successful with their school work.

Research into children’s mental health has found that a sense of belonging and connectedness at school helps to protect children against emotional difficulties and improves their learning.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teachers helps children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older friends to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying. These are some of the ways that children’s sense of belonging at school can be supported.

Starting school is a big change for children

Not only do they have to cope with schoolwork and teachers, but they also have to get used to being part of a class and a whole school. A lot more is expected of children when they start school and there are lots more people to get on with. It helps children to know that there are people at school who will look after them and care about their needs.