Term 1 – Week 2

Permission Notes and Payments Due

Voluntary Contribution - $42 student or family $62
Textbooks – $40 per student
Swimming Carnival (Primary only) - $10 + note

Please note these amounts can be paid off in instalments

What’s Happening

Term 1

Week 3
15th Feb. Swimming Carnival – Primary only

Week 4
19th Feb. Captains’ Induction, 11.30am
Kinder Information Night – 6.30pm

Week 7
11th Mar. District Swimming Carnival

Week 9
28th Mar. School Photos
**Value of the Week – Reliability**

I am practising reliability when I:

- make promises I can keep;
- really care about doing what I promise;
- return things I borrow;
- do my best and finish on time and
- plan ahead.

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**Welcome to our beautiful Kindergarten students and their mums and dads.**

Kindergarten has been engaged in Best Start testing over the last week which provides a wealth of information about where each child is in terms of their literacy and numeracy knowledge and understanding.

Thursday saw the children begin their first day as a class.

Our little ones are so grown up; all brave, ready for school and not one tear.

As I left the classroom children were working on computers, the interactive whiteboard, puzzles, books, construction and exploration.

Many children were already forming friendships, chatting happily and sharing activities.

A great start to what is a very exciting year.

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**Induction Ceremony**

On Tuesday, 19th February the school will hold an induction ceremony for House Captains, School Representative Councillors and Library Monitors at 11.30am. Three students will receive Principal Awards for school service.

Please feel very welcome to join us at 11.30am in the school hall.

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**Kiss and Drop Zone**

The school has a drop off and pick up zone in front of the gate at Baden Place. It is referred to as ‘the kiss and drop zone’ as drivers are required to remain with the car ready to move off after their child or children have alighted in the morning, pavement side or hopped into the car in the afternoon.

The bus company has contacted the school to request we ensure that the bus bay is clear for the arrival and departure of buses.

Buses arrive in the morning at approximately 8.30am and in the afternoon at approximately 3.10pm and 3.25pm.

From my observation parents have been terrific in their drop off and pick up – particularly in the afternoon.

Thank you for your support.

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**Parent Helpers**

Each year Mrs O’Brien is supported by a wonderful group of parents who work with our students in Literacy and Numeracy.

If you are able to support with listening to student read or help with writing or numeracy please fill out the following slip and return it to the office.

Mr Zoglmeyer will be holding an information session in Week 5 for parents helping in classrooms with literacy.

Mrs O’Brien will organise times and a day or days with you that you find suitable.

Thank you so much for your support. It means a great deal to teachers and students.

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**Blaxland P&C 2013**

Some dates for your diary:

- Our first meeting for the year is **Monday 18 February, 7.30 pm** in the staff room.
- Our AGM is **Monday 18 March, 7.30 pm** in the staff room. The AGM will be followed by a regular meeting.

All welcome! For more information, please phone Karen Callinan on 0447 439 661 or Catherine Pratt on 0416 222 468.

You can also email Catherine on catherine_pratt@bigpond.com.
Swimming Carnival
Year 3 to 6 attend their swimming carnival at Glenbrook Swimming Pool on Friday 15th February. Any Year 2 students who turn 8 this year and are competent swimmers are invited to join us.

Students will need something to sit on, lots to drink, healthy snacks, morning tea and lunch (swimming makes for ravenous tummies), a hat, T Shirt or rashie to cover shoulders, a towel and sunscreen. It is best that every child wears their first cover of sunscreen to the pool and refreshes on arrival.

The kiosk at the pool will be open on the day. With the weather, as unpredictable as it is, we hope it will be a lovely day and invite parents to join us.

In the event of uninviting swimming weather, as long as there are no storms involving lightning the carnival will go ahead. However, only students competing in heats will attend and school will be as normal for Years 3 to 6 students not competing.

District Swimming Carnival
Students who qualify to compete at the District Carnival will be notified.

The carnival will be held at Glenbrook Pool on Monday 11th March.

Kindergarten Parent Information Night
Kindergarten parents are invited to join us in the Kinder rooms at 6.30pm on Tuesday 19th February for an overview of learning, expectations for the year and how as a parent you can help your child at home and at school.

Disco
Year 5 fundraise throughout the year in order to provide a farewell for Year 6 at the end of the year. Their first initiative of the year is a disco on Friday 8th March.

The disco for Kindergarten to Year 2 is at 4.30pm, ending at 6pm.

Years 3 to 6 begin at 6pm and end at 7.30pm.

A snack and drink is included in the $3.50 entry fee.

Some of our children have lactose or gluten intolerance. If we are unaware, or just to ensure information is up to date please let your child’s teacher know. This way we are able to ensure each child has a great time.

School Photos
School photos are on Thursday 28th March. All students are required to be in full school summer uniform; girls in their dresses and boys in their grey shorts and blue polo shirts.

Anzac Day Service
The school will hold an Anzac Day Service on Tuesday 9th April, the last week of Term 1. Parents are invited to join us at 11.30am.

The Glenbrook Service is held on Anzac Day; 25th April, the last week of the holidays.

The school traditionally marches in the parade under the school banner, led by school captains in school uniform.

We invite our school to join us in the march. Executive staff and students meet out in front of IGA at Glenbrook at 10.10am ready to form up in the parade.

We hope you are able to join us.

Safety Day
Thanks to the hard work of our grants committee who won a grant to go towards the implementation of another Safety Day we will engage in a day of learning about safety on buses, as pedestrians, being aware of strangers and people who help us such as firefighters, police, ambulance paramedics, NRMA etc on Friday 12th April.

What a great way to end the term. We hope you are able to share in the day.

Calendar
The calendar on the school’s webpage is a work in progress as it is continually updated with new activities and possible changes.

While we set dates sometimes unseen conflicts come up with student, department and parent commitments. We sincerely try to accommodate all, however, every now and again it is not possible and sometimes dates have to change.

Flexibility is a wonderful attribute and develops our resilience to change. As a community we are fortunate indeed that this is a strength we have.

We endeavor to stay with dates but know you will understand if we are required to make changes.

Thank you for our support.
Class Information
At the end of the year indications of financial costs for the year and class requirements went out.
Teachers will, however, send out an information sheet about class requirements and learning for their respective year.

School and Staff Information
Schools submit final enrolment numbers to the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) over the next two weeks.
Schools are then formally informed by DEC on the 27th February as to their entitlements based on enrolments.
Entitlements include the number of classes we are able to form the number of teachers allocated. It also includes how many hours of part time teaching, library time, release from face to face teaching time, office staff and allocated times etc our school can have.
Mrs Hayes will remain with us until Week 5, possibly 6, until DEC determines how they will staff the position.
It is possible the school will be asked to staff the position for the year in which case Mrs Hayes will remain with us.

Sharing Information
One of our very great strengths as a learning community is the way in which we work together, support each other, share values and very importantly share information that supports the wellbeing of our children.
The school believes in an open door policy where generally if you pop up to school every one makes themselves available, from teachers, to office staff and principal. Only on rare occasions, when it is just not possible, are community members asked to wait or make an appointment.
A parent’s first point of call is their child’s teacher as they are most familiar with the needs of the child.
May we suggest, however, if you want to talk to your child’s teacher in order to share important information then please make an appointment so that we can provide dedicated and uninterrupted time.
Teachers have release from face to face teaching time and before and after school time to meet with parents. Phone calls are another option if meeting times are difficult due to family commitments.

In the morning teachers are often busy organizing the day for their students and need to focus on their children.
Of course, if any information is urgent do not hesitate to contact the school.

Canteen
At this stage the canteen will only be open on Thursdays beginning 14th February. After eating time, the first half of lunch Year 6 have organised cooling iceblocks and icecreams for sale for $1 or $2. Thanks Mrs Foye. You are terrific.

Electronic Distribution of Newsletters
In our quest to lessen our environmental footprint the newsletter continues to be distributed electronically.
Newsletters can be accessed via the school’s webpage.
There is also a link on the webpage, in ‘Newsletters’ where parents can subscribe to have their newsletter delivered to their choice of email address.

Facebook
The school has established an authorised Facebook page. It is, however, a work in progress and as a person who does not use facebook my thanks go to Miss Kerr who oversees this endeavor.
We ask that dinner conversation etiquette is observed at all times and hope that the forum will become a nice way to have positive interactive conversations that lead to the enhancement of school life.

Web Page
Staff will engage in professional development activities this term to make better use of the school’s webpage in sharing class and school work.
As always, it is always the lack of availability of time and the ever increasing amount of inclusions we bring to the school day and follow up work at home that provide challenges.
We will, however, over the year find time to use the web page to provide information about our work here at school.
Homework
Teachers will allocate activities for students to engage in as homework. It will, however, be the choice of students and parents to complete activities. It is not the school's intention to place stressors on students in regard to homework. Teachers will also be exploring the use of online homework in literacy and numeracy later this year.

Chilled Water
The P&C kindly installed a chilled water station beside the kindergarten rooms. Children are encouraged to bring water bottles to school that can be filled at the station via a spout.

Water in Kinder to Year 6 Classrooms
Research suggests children need access to water consistently throughout the day in order to deal with learning demands well. We encourage children to have water in classrooms. It is important that the water bottle is wrapped in a face cloth or tea towel in order to eliminate problems with wetting books and work from condensation.

Kindergarten to Year 6 Munch and Crunch
We encourage our children to stop for a ‘munch and crunch’ at approximately 10.00am for no more than five or ten minutes. Many of our children eat breakfast early and energy, especially for the brain begins to wane. A healthy carbohydrate helps to refresh their ability to engage in learning tasks. The food requires ‘crunch’ and needs to be quick to eat.
Some ideal foods are carrot or celery sticks, capsicum or cucumber strips, grapes, slices of apple etc in a small container. Please avoid sending whole apples as the children cannot finish them in the allocated time. Thank you!

Blaxland Football Club
- Under 5 to Over 45 Men’s Teams
- Premier Grade 1st & Reserve Teams
- Girls Teams from Under 10 to Under 18
- All Age Ladies Teams
(Under 5 must turn 5 in 2013)

Online Pre-Registration required
REGISTRATION DAYS—at our Clubhouse
Saturday 2nd February 10am to 2pm
Friday 8th February 6pm to 8pm
Saturday 9th February 10am to 2pm
Blaxland Oval, St Johns Rd, Blaxland
Redbacks gear will be available for purchase.

- One-off Registration Fee—no weekly fees
- Games on Saturdays & Sundays (age dependent)
- training weekdays--late afternoons/early evenings
  - Muster & Grading—late February
  - Trialgames in March
  - Season commences in April

For more information:-
Sarah Sloss—Club Registrar
0414466777
Or email admin@blaxlandfootball.com
Website—www.blaxlandfootball.com
“Come Play with the Redbacks”

DRAWING CLASSES
Afternoon classes for kids
Evening and daytime classes for adults

Absolute beginners
This course is designed to teach the skills of drawing at an achievable pace so that you will be bringing home great artwork right from the start!

- Subjects include animals, portraiture, landscape, old stone buildings, birds & lots more
- We use lots of different media including pastel, charcoal, pencil and watercolour pencil. All art materials are provided
- $12/hr (discount for pension card holders)
- Friendly, relaxed atmosphere!

Vanessa has been teaching drawing in the mountains for over 10 years.
See Vanessa’s artwork at The Argyle Gallery, The Rocks.
Also see some of her students’ work & course info at:

www.vanessajoret.com.au
For more info phone Vanessa on:
4758 8030