Term 4 – Week 8

Permission Notes and Payments Due

Voluntary Contribution - $40 student or family $60
Textbooks – $40 per student
Blue Gum Lodge - $12 + note
Infants’ Activity Day - $5

Please note these amounts can be paid off in instalments

What’s Happening

Term 4

Week 9
3rd Dec. NSW Teachers’ Federation meeting – classes resume 11.30am
5th Dec. Presentation Day

Week 10
11th Dec. End of Year Reports
12th Dec. Year 6 Farewell

Week 11
16th Dec. Talent Quest
17th Dec. Infants Activity Day
K to Y2
Blue Gum Lodge
Excursion Y3 to 6

18th Dec. Students’ last day 2013
**Value of the Week – Perseverance**

I am practising perseverance when I:

- choose my commitments wisely;
- set goals and stick with them until completed;
- pace myself, and take one step at a time; and
- stand by my friends and loved ones.

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**Eco Garden**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who brought Robyn Connors dream of an Eco Garden for the children to fruition. Your hard work and support has begun a project that will continue for students for years to come. It will be a place of exploration, discovery, play and fun.

We hope to build on the design and vision to provide a greater scope of activity for our students and you have been the initiators of an innovative school development. Thank you to Robyn for her vision and to Cath who supported the implementation of Robyn’s vision. Thank you to all the students who remind us of why our vision for them and others to come is so important to our beliefs and the culture of this school.

Thank you to all our external supporters who become part of our community such as Bunnings, Coles Land Care and the Teachers Mutual Bank. Your generosity extends our capacity to offer students a richer and more experiential school environment.

Thank you to all the parents who were part of the grant committee. The submission took great thought and time to prepare. Your efforts made this project possible.

Thank you Robyn for your enthusiasm and vision, always.

Thank you Cath for happily and willingly taking on a herculean task. We asked of you what many would not have been able to or wished to implement and you were fantastic.

Thank you to the many parents who supported the initiative. The children love having parents at school and you enrich and enable opportunities that without you would not be a possibility.

Our sincere thanks to you all for your love and support of our children and their school.

**Election Results for 2014 Captains**

We appreciate the courage of candidates who were involved in the elections and thank all for the great deal of effort that was given to preparing posters and speeches. It is never easy to be a candidate in an election but all our students have shown leadership and we look forward to other leadership activities we know they will be involved in.

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**We congratulate the Captains for 2014.**

**Savannah Hext and Angus Callinan**

**We congratulate the Vice Captains for 2014.**

**Ben Symonds and Zhalia Fenton**

The students and staff of this school place faith in these students as leaders. We know they will set a wonderful role model for all students and our school.

**Federation Work Meeting**

There will be a NSW Teachers’ Federation meeting for teachers on Tuesday 3rd of December. The telecast is expected to run from 9am to 11am. For mums and dads unable to arrange alternative care for their child limited supervision will be available.

Classes will resume, as normal at 11.30am.

We thank you for your understanding and support.

**Working Bee**

Last Sunday a group of hard working parents weeded, cleaned drains, set up a silt fence, erected water diversions, spread mulch and defined areas for paths and gardens at the front of the school; in and around the eco garden.

Mrs Symonds was the resident expert on all things green and drainage.

I learnt much about the plants selected and planted for the children. It was wonderful.

A sincere thanks to you all for ensuring all the hard work of the parents and friends of the school who established the Eco Garden is continued and extended.

Sundays are a precious day for families which makes your gift to the school of your time, energy, hard work and vision that much more special.

Thank you

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**2014 Year 7 Orientation Day**

Year 6 students transitioning to Year 7 next year are invited to an Orientation morning at their high school on Wednesday 4th December. Blaxland High will begin their morning at 9am.

Have a great day everyone.

**Presentation Day**

Please join us for Presentation Day Assembly on Thursday 5th December.

When:

- K – 2 at 9.15am
- 3 – 6 at 10.00am

Where: School Hall

We look forward to sharing the wonderful achievements of students with you.

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**End of Year Reports**

End of Year Reports will be sent home with the students on Thursday 12th December.
Year 6 Farewell
It seems extraordinary we are Nearing the end of 2013 and the time to wish farewell to our wonderful Year 6 is nearly here. Year 5 has worked hard throughout the year to provide for the farewell and we look forward to the night on Thursday, 12th December in the school hall.
Year 6 will arrive at 6pm for dinner.
Year 5 will arrive at 7pm for dancing.
Year 6 parents are invited to join us at 8.30pm for presentations.

Blue Gum Lodge Excursion
Years 3 to 6 have an excursion to Blue Gum Lodge at Springwood on Tuesday 17th December.
The bus will leave school at 9.20am and will return to school at approximately 2.45pm.
Children need to ensure they have their recess, lunch, hat, sunscreen, lots to drink, swimmers and a towel. Students require a t-shirt to wear in and out of the pool to protect shoulders from sunburn.
Activities for the day include swimming, tennis, basketball, table tennis, chess etc.
Cost is $12.00.
Please ensure the office receives your child’s permission note, medical form and payment by Wednesday, 11th December.
It should be a great day – lots of fun with friends and teachers.

Infants’ Activity Day
Kindergarten to Year 2 have an activity day on Tuesday 17th December.
Dance, games and a movie is on the day’s agenda so comfortable clothes, a hat, sunscreen and sensible shoes are needed.
Recess will include watermelon, grapes, jelly and popcorn.
Lunch is a BBQ of sausages. There will be fairy bread, mini cakes, chips, an ice block and a popper to drink.
If you are able to help in any way please contact Mrs Lees.
The cost for the day is $5.00. Please send this to the office in an envelope marked with your child’s name and class.
Thank you.
It should be a fabulous day with lots of laughter and fun.

Christmas Food Drive
Please support local families by donating food, toiletries and gifts for children to the Lower Mountains Services Christmas Food Drive. Please see advertisement at the end of this newsletter. Donations will be collected at school over the next two weeks.

Books In Homes
The Rotary club is a wonderful organization and has been supporting schools and our students when sometimes life is challenging.
The children involved in the program will receive their books from Mr Geoff Valance on Wednesday 11th at 2.30pm. It would be lovely if those children involved could write a letter of thanks to show appreciation to an organization that works tirelessly, in many ways to support community members.

Karate & Gymnastic Stars
Over the last 6 weeks Shanee Robinson and Chloe Saunders have been working extremely hard at their Gymnastics Club JA Gymsports in Emu Plains. On the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of November, Shanee and Chloe qualified for the NSW Gymnastics State Championships.
On Saturday (16th) Shanee in her trio competed with fantastic results. Shanee’s group came 1st in their Dynamic Routine and 6th in their Balance Routine.
Placing them 3rd in NSW for Level 1 senior girls trio.
Chloe in her Trio competed Sunday (17th) also with a wonderful outcome, Chloe’s group came 6th in their Balance Routine and 7th in their Dynamic Routine. placing them 7th in NSW for Level 2 Senior girls trio!!!!
Both girls did a fantastic job against very tough competition over the last few weekends.
There were over 1000 competitors from NSW who entered, so to achieve 3rd and 7th overall in your STATE is just outstanding.
Well done girls!!
Also on the 17th of November, Noah Saunders competed in a Karate Tournament at Emu Heights.
He placed-
1st in junior Sparring
1st in team Sparring
1st in Junior Combo
3rd in Sumo
And 4th in Kata
Noah’s head high kicks saved his team and brought them back from being behind by 7 points to winning by over 5 points.
Well done Noah!!!!
Band News

Is your child interested in joining the band next year? Would you like more information on the School Band program? The School Band is now taking enrolments for 2014 and participation is open to all students who are currently in year 2-5. No prior experience is required and all students will have recently attended a concert by the band and Teaching Services Australia (TSA) staff demonstrating the variety of instruments available for tuition next year. They will also have received a green Expression Of Interest form (“Band Program Introduction”). Students who have returned this form will be given the opportunity to test a variety of instruments to help them find the one most suited to them. They will then be given a comprehensive Enrolment Pack with the results of this instrument test.

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer. TSA is committed to providing a quality concert band program, with full band rehearsals, great value tuition and rent-to-buy instrument hire.

This green Expression Of Interest form is due back to the school office within 5 days. You can download this note at www.teachingservices.com.au or for more information email info@teachingservices.com.au

Friday, 29 November 2013
JACKEROO RANCH HORSE RIDING
SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY RIDING CAMPS

Jackeroo Ranch (est. 52 years)
Recently relocated to Bingletree Station at Upper Turon, is again running its popular horse riding camps in Summer Vacation.

PRE-XMAS CAMPS: From 8th - 22nd Dec.
(come anytime from 3 days to a fortnight)

1st Week: Sat. 4th Jan. – Sat. 11th Jan.
2nd Week: Sat. 11th Jan – Sun. 19th Jan.

Shorter stays are possible if camps are not fully booked.

These camps are for “horse mad” children aged 6 to 16. Five to six hours per day are devoted to horse activities including a 1 hour lesson and a 3 hour trail ride in the beautiful Turon Valley with tuition still being given. As well, campers are taught grooming, saddling, haltering, and catching a horse, safety aspects and many other facets of horsemanship.

Previous experience is not necessary as beginners to advanced riders are catered for, we specialise in teaching nervous riders and developing their confidence.

Other activities include gold panning, cattle feeding/checking, cattle mustering, camp fires and native wildlife spotting. The property abounds with Wallabies, wombats, wonderful bird life as well as being a working cattle farm and Quarter Horse Stud.

There are Poll Hereford calves and Quarter Horse foals now being born.

This is not just a camp!
It is a wonderful farm experience
Your child will treasure forever.

Enquiries Mrs Pattie Hudson
Phone 6337 7173 (nights are best)

Gateway Family Services aims to provide hampers for 130 families in financial need this Christmas. They hope to give families hampers that will provide the basics for a Christmas lunch and some of the extras that they would not usually have. We also provide gifts for children u/16 years of age and for single people & couples.

This year we need help to provide 1 litre juice, savoury and sweet biscuits (shortbread is ideal), gravy, jelly, soft drink, cordial, coffee, tea bags (small packet), rice, tinned ham, tinned vegies, tinned fruit, UHT milk, UHT cream, UHT custard, snack foods (e.g. chips/savoury snacks) and toiletries.

We are in need of gifts for primary aged and early teenage children and we are in need of gifts for boys especially. Some suggestions are a movie ticket, toiletries, books, games, beach towel.

If you would like you may donate money that we can use to purchase a gift. Donations over $2 are tax deductible-contact Gateway to arrange a Tax receipt. 47395963 (Kerry)

Please place all donated items in the box in the front foyer at School.

Please support local families through our Christmas Food Appeal

Friday, 29 November 2013