Term 2 – Week 4

Permission Notes and Payments Due

Voluntary Contribution - $40 student or family $60  
Textbooks – $40 per student overdue  
5/6 Canberra Excursion - $50 deposit overdue  
Term 1 Craft - $10 overdue

Please note these amounts can be paid off in instalments

What’s Happening

Term 2

Week 7  
10th June  Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday  
14th June  Walkathon

Week 8  
21st June  Winmalee Cup

Term 3

Week 2  
25th July  Milo Cup, Years 5/6

Week 4  
5th Aug.  Athletics Carnival  
9th Aug.  Open Day

Thursday, 23 May 2013
Value of the Week - Creativity

I am practising creativity when I:

- discover my gifts;
- use knowledge and training to develop them;
- use my imagination;
- do things in my own creative way and
- think of new ways to make things work better.

Stewart House Clothing Drive 2013
We are asking parents to assist the Smith Family who collect clothes on behalf of Stewart House in their donations of clothing. Your donation helps fund the program that support the 1,800 public school children who experience a healthy and much needed break at Stewart House each year. Please return your bag to the school office by Friday 7th June.

Uniform
All students Kindergarten to Year 6 are required to wear school uniform every day. Currently, we are seeing colourful jackets and very bright sneakers, leggings, hooded jumpers and baseball caps. It would be very much appreciated if we could all follow up with the children. Teachers will also remind children about what is required at school.

Community Breakfast  Friday 31st May
Come along at 8am to school and join in the fun! There will be children’s activities: games, craft, story time, get fingerprinted by a police officer! Start the day with a big, hearty brekkie! (gold coin contribution)
Everyone is welcome! Parents, grandparents, friends, neighbours
Brought to you by: Gateway Family Services HUBitat (Lower Mountains Community Hub)
Contact person: Jill Carlson-Beardall

Chess
Last Tuesday we had a team of Chess players participate the Interschool Chess Challenge run by the Sydney Academy of Chess. Our congratulations go to Tyler, Tom, Torben, Alyssa, Jonny, Sebastian, Kieran, Lachlan, Madeline, Geordie and Ben.

You were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Thank you for your fabulous manners and good sportsmanship.

Many of the schools that were represented on the day have been participating in interschool championships for many years while it is a new endeavour for Blaxland. We can see with the skills and strategies our chess players are developing that they will become a force to be reckoned with. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who were very generous with their time and helped with transporting our children. Well done everyone!

P&C Meeting
Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the last meeting.
At the meeting we discussed the purchase of 8 small notebooks and 17 IPADS for students to use.
The school has purchased the notebooks and is organising the installation of wireless internet. The P&C has been asked to support the purchase of the IPADS.
Staff has attended professional development days to look at the way in which we can use this technology effectively in the classroom. In view of this we will have a small presentation of the type of applications we can use in class to support literacy and numeracy learning at the next P&C meeting.
While PC tablets are far more cost effective they do not have the range of educational applications that Apple does and it is those educational apps schools require.
Also raised at the meeting was the need to reconsider the review of uniforms. To address this need a P&C subcommittee will form a Uniform Committee to undertake the review. Any changes that the parent community decides to undertake will be as a result of community input; parents will be provided with the opportunity to have a say through an online survey, written responses, P&C and Uniform Committee meetings.
Any changes that the committee decides to make, based on community information, will be phased in over a period of time. This will provide time for parents to meet costs involved.
Change is never easy, however, reviews are always healthy and give us the opportunity to look at how we can better support the changing needs of our community. Skorts were not available to our girls previously but could be a great addition to our uniform. They now come in a variety of styles and fabrics from sports wear to more formal wear. Parents are noting the great difficulty they are having keeping polo shirts clean despite the change of manufacturer so this too could be a good time to review the type of polo shirt or colour.

The P&C will advise of a date for the first meeting to discuss uniforms.

**NAPLAN**
Students in Years 3 and 5 sat for NAPLAN last week and papers were returned to the testing centre on Friday 17th May. We can look forward to seeing the outcomes of the tests around September / October when parents will receive written reports.

**Interviews**
Interview notes for all classes went home recently. If you have not received a note please let your child’s teacher know so they may send another copy home for you. Interviews will run from Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th June. Mrs Lees Interviews will be held on Tuesday 18th June.

**Gonski**
NSW has reached agreement with the Commonwealth Government on the Gonski national education reforms. Implementation will occur over a six year transition period commencing in 2014. National Partnerships affected by this are:
- The Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership, which will cease in its current form at the end of 2013.
- The Rewards for Great Teachers National Partnership for which no further funding will be provided by the Commonwealth.

National Partnerships that will continue under existing arrangements are:
- The Digital Education Revolution will continue until 31 December 2013, the original completion date, with final reporting to be completed by February 2014 as planned.
- MoneySmart Schools activity will finish in June 2013, as scheduled, and be replaced by a similar program with further details to be released by the Commonwealth at a later date.
- Improving Teacher Quality National Partnership - Principal Professional Development projects will continue until December 2013, its original completion date.
- Secure Schools Program - Existing projects will be funded through to their planned completion by June 2013.
- Solar Schools Program - Existing projects will be funded through to their planned conclusion in September 2013.
- Investing in Focus Schools - Funding under this National Partnership has been fully allocated, and reporting against the funding will continue until April 2014 as planned.
- Trade Training Centres in Schools will continue to 2018/2019, according to its original ten year program.

As far as we are aware, at this stage, staffing will not be affected by the changes here at Blaxland. How the change will look for us as a school will become clearer as time evolves.

Some schools will be greatly affected with significant changes to their funding and staffing allocation. Some schools, less so and possibly for the better which we hope is the case for us.

Again, the flux of change is challenging but we know Education is dynamic and so too must be the way we deliver administrative services in order to better serve the needs of our learning communities.

The Department of Education and Communities will support and work closely with schools significantly affected by change.

Principals will be guided and kept informed throughout the process.
School Musical
Into the Wild Blue Yonder
The musical will run from Monday 9th September to Friday 13th September.

Monday 9th: Full school rehearsal
Tuesday 10th: Dress rehearsal and filming day.
Wednesday 11th: Evening performance
Thursday 12th: Matinee performance
Friday 13th: Evening performance

There will be a $5.00 production levy per child or $10.00 per family.
If you are able to support with sewing please let Mrs Lees know. It would be greatly appreciated.

Lower Blue Mountains PSSA Touch Football
Congratulations to Tara B and Schae F representing the Lower Blue Mtns PSSA Touch Football Carnival at St Mary’s. The team came 2nd overall. Tara has also been chosen to play with the Sydney West Team competing in Tamworth in August. Well done!!

Student Awards
Term 2 Weeks

Mrs Lees
Myles P – excellent effort in class
Emily J – taking care with her work presentation

APs Award
Jacob M – Co-operation

VIPs
Lawrence N, Annabel B

Mr Zoglmeier
Eli P – fantastic effort in Writing
Erin O’K – wonderful progress in Reading

APs Award
Lillian M – Co-operation

VIPs
Claudia K, Erin O’K

Ms Kerr
Alexanna G-T – journal writing
Isaac D – journal writing

APs Award
Mitch F – Co-operation

VIPs
Jazmyn W-B, James M

Mrs Hayes
Jennifer C – trying hard in Maths
Charlotte B – writing a great ‘Jelly’ procedure

APs Award
Ella H – Co-operation in the classroom environment

VIPs
Lilly N, Evie M

Mrs Shaw
Jed F – a great effort in Writing
Leo T – being a hard-working, enthusiastic student

APs Award
Loretta K – Co-operation

VIPs
Lily S, Hamish B

Mrs Palmer/Mrs Connors
Andrea G – wonderful effort in all his work
Brad B – his positive attitude towards his learning

APs Award
Claire H – Co-operation

VIPs
David R, Alison D

Mr Ellwood
Lachlan M – his expertise in Spelling

APs Award
Kate S – Co-operation

VIPs
Jarmira B, Izaak S

Mr Foye
Tara M – positive attitude to schoolwork
Torben H – an enthusiastic student

APs Award
Tara B – Co-operation

VIPs
Lucy W, Brad D

Thursday, 23 May 2013
Little B’s Out of School Hours Care is looking at opening in Term 3 at Blaxland Public School. Kylie Camilleri, Rebecca Neumann and Lisa Willett will be co-ordinating this service.

Morning sessions will run from 6.30am to 9am
Afternoon sessions will run from 3pm to 6pm

We will also be providing Vacation Care which will run from 6.30am to 6pm.

If you would like to find out more or receive an expression of interest form, Kylie, Rebecca and Lisa will be at school from 8.30am to 9.30 am and 2.30pm to 3.30pm all of Week 5 (27th May – 31st May). You can also contact them by email on beckyliesi@littlebs.com.au.

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