Term 3 – Week 8

**Permission Notes and Payments Due**

Voluntary Contribution - $40 student or family $60  
Textbooks – $40 per student **overdue please pay**  
5/6 Broken Bay Excursion – various outstanding amounts  
Term 2 Craft - $10 **overdue please pay**  
Gymnastics - $30 **overdue please pay**  
3/4 Winmalee Camp – balance due  

*Please note these amounts can be paid off in instalments*

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**What’s Happening**  
**Term 3**

**Week 9**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sept  
  Uniform Shop Open 8.45am – 9.15am  
- 9<sup>th</sup> Sept  
  ADHD Information Evening 7pm  
- 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.  
  Year 6 to 7 Transition Visit to Blaxland High 12.30

**Week 10**
- 17<sup>th</sup> Sept  
  Year 6 to 7 Transition Visit to Blaxland High 12.30  
- 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.  
  Winmalee Camp Years 3 & 4  
- 19<sup>th</sup> Sept.  
  Winmalee Camp Years 3 & 4

  **Term 4**

**Week 1**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
  Labour Day holiday  
- 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
  School Resumes

**Week 3**
- 20<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
  Intensive Swimming Scheme starts and continues this week

**Week 4**
- 27<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
  Intensive Swimming continues till Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October  
- 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
  Kindy Orientation  
- 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.  
  ‘Happy Haunting’ Family Fun Night
Value of the Week – Caring

I am practising caring when I:

• let people know that what they say is important by looking at them and listening closely;
• give people help when they need it;
• treat my body with respect and
• work with enthusiasm and excellence.

Craft Offensive

Kylie Jones & Carissa Chapman are starting their ‘craft offensive’ with two great projects and are putting the word out for donations of materials as below.

Lavender bag items
- Calico for the inserts
- Fabric for the case
- Rice
- Dried lavender
- Cottons for sewing machines

Candle jars with a combination of lace, burlap and crocheted cotton wrapps. Carrisa & Kylie will make soy tea light candles. The cost for up to 50 tea lights will be approx. $25. We would need;
- recycled jars e.g. Vegemite jars
- burlap fabric
- twine to tie around the jar
- crochet cotton

If you are able to help please drop items into school office or you can hand to myself, Kylie or Carissa. All donations much appreciated … Please pass onto members of the ‘mum and dad’ grapevine that might be interested in helping out too.

Dance

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with Dance this year. Our fabulous teachers who brought their gifts and vision of music, choreography and dance to the teaching of our students. To staff who quietly work in the background supporting colleagues. To the clever parents who always rise to the challenge of sewing and helping with costumes and makeup.

It is an incredibly enriching experience for our school community.

Students received very positive comments from Festival Staff for considerate and appropriate behaviour when waiting to go on stage.

Performances were delightful and a lot of fun was had by all.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is open on Monday 8th September from 8.45am to 9.15am. Our thanks to Christine for being there for us.

Winmalee Camp

Arrangements for Winmalee Camp must be finalised.

The school is now required to forward final numbers, meal needs and sleeping arrangements to the camp coordinator.

Please ensure all notes such as medical and permission have been forwarded to school.

If there is anything we can do to support please feel comfortable in contacting the school.

All conversations are considered confidential.

Information Evening - Provided by Let’s Move

On Tuesday 9th September, 6.30pm for a 7pm start in the hall there will be a cost free information night. The presentation is relevant to issues involved with:

• attention, behaviour and cognition.
• Dyslexia, Dyspraxia
• ADHD
• Aspergers

The presentation lasts approximately an hour and demonstrates how to build neural pathways to create a platform for learning using movement and exercise.

A flyer providing further details is attached.

Primary Social Program

During the last two terms Years 3 to 6 have been involved in information sessions on dealing with challenges that we may encounter in our working and social situations.

Currently, Years 5 and 6 have been exploring feelings which have included:

• Isolation
• Jealousy
• Contentment
• Worry
• Determination
• Frustration
• Desperation
• Joy

We have been very blessed to have Jill Webster, an incredibly gifted story teller, working with us.

Jill has helped the students take their thoughts and understanding of these emotions and translate them into text and action in dramatic form.

Both classes completed emotion based stories with a senior group demonstrating their work in play form to the Director of Education.

Fabulous work!

Friday, 5 September 2014
School Walkathon
As you are aware our tradition of the Walkathon to Euroka Clearing in the National Park cannot be sustained.
With any activity the school undertakes risk assessments are implemented. The risk assessment for our walk to Euroka does not support continuance of the activity due to safety risks. It is with great sadness that we accept that this tradition comes to an end.
Teachers have been looking at alternatives. We have looked at other much safer venues for a day out, however, all of these require bus hire which as you know is becoming increasingly more expensive. We had tried to coordinate the 12th September as a day, however with the complications of wet weather and the need to change the dates for District staff feel it would be better to have the Walkathon next term.
We have set Friday 7th November aside for the day. The Walkathon will be held at school where a track will be organised along with a BBQ and games for the children.
It should be a lovely day without the worry of cars and buses around the children.
Thank you for your support.

School Grounds Update
Area 1
The Eco Garden
Funding: National Australia Bank
Coles Land Care Grant
Rationale
The area facing the Great Western Highway had unsightly mounds of earth which was problematic to maintain.
Of greatest concern was the habitat it provided for snakes. Most of the snakes we have had to deal with in the playground have been located in this area where the children eat recess and lunch. It was a priority involving the safety of our students to remove the mounds.
Planting in front of the new BER building will visually shield the students in those classes from the highway. This improves the visual environment for the children by changing it from cars and trucks to greenery and colour.
We still have work to do in this area which is to install:
• ground cover for the pathways that is in keeping with the ecological concept of the area
• 2 swales to redirect water run off counteracting the issue of soil erosion each time it rains.
• Further planting in front of the BER building.
$1000.00 still remains from the grant to go towards the ground cover or the swales.
While we need to finish the area it is now at a manageable stage and we have higher priorities to address, such as the play equipment for the children.

Area 2
Gardens in front of the school, hall and beside the office
Funding: General School Funds - $1000.00
Rational
Plants in these areas died, maintenance is less problematic and less costly with appropriate planting.
Removal of the spreading grasses made the areas more visible in regard to snakes.
The areas are the first visible points on arrival at the school.
These gardens are becoming more mature and will not require further planting with the exception of the replacement of plants as required.

Area 3
This is the area in front of the Kindergarten and Year 1 Room.
Funding: P&C / School
Rational
This area will never grow grass well. Water run off does not flow into the water catchment drain.
The area needs to be conducive to play for the children.
Research supports the need for children to play. We recognise play as providing improvement in children’s cognitive skills, language skills, their ability to focus on learning and the development of social and emotional skills. Play supports the development and practise of skills such as conflict resolution, cooperation, sharing and problem solving (Steinhagen & Iltus, 2004; Clements, 2001; NAECDS/SDE, 2001; Jambor, 1999).
The vision for the area is to use artificial grass between the enchanted garden, sand pit and walkways.
In the area facing the BER building that begins to fall away from in front of the Year 1 room a wooden deck that can be a pirate ship or platform for impromptu plays with dress up clothes out at lunch time for the children is planned. The deck will be fenced on the BER building side. Sails will be erected to provide shade.
A retaining wall will come up to meet the deck that will form the back of a curved seat. The back of the seat will be made of bricks that have family names engraved.
The lone tree in front of Year 5 / 6 room will be the Friendship Tree for the children. This area will be a quiet area for children to sit and chat, read books etc.
We hope to add some static games such as Tic Tac Toe, Musical Stepping Stones etc that do not require specific teacher supervision which means children can access these activities at any time during play time.
It will be a fabulous area for all students to experience.
Plans for this area are to be drawn up and costings to be undertaken by the end of this year.

Friday, 5 September 2014
Anyone with drafting skills who can donate their time to this venture is welcome to contact the office. This is a huge initiative and one that will be costly but wonderful for our children. All students will be able to use this area in free play and as classes for unstructured play and the presentation of plays developed.

Area 4
Play Equipment on the Oval
Funding: P&C / School
Rational
Another area for unstructured / structured play. The equipment provides an alternative play area which is accessed on a rotation basis for different years through the week. It provides the opportunity for children to be active in a social setting.
The equipment will also provide another dimension of activity for:
- Infants Friday sport.
- Classes needing alternative class time activities or time out from the classroom
Repairs are required to the existing framework in order to address issues of age and the need to meet current safety guidelines for play equipment. Costings are currently being sought for:
- repairs
- adjustments of equipment to meet safety standards
- extending the equipment out towards the seats which are to be relocated to provide a bigger play area
- soft fall to cater for the additional equipment in the extension area
- fencing the area to address safety issues.

We are currently working on drawing up an overview of our vision for the grounds for the school which will be displayed in the newsletter, at P&C and on the community notice board.

Our playground needs to come up to the standards of quality of education that children receive in their classrooms. It is important that the integral nature of play and the play environment reflect what we know about how play impacts on the:
- physical and emotional wellbeing of children
- academic development and achievement of children.
- social development and capacity to manage interaction and play with others effectively.

Please be assured, however, that meeting the costs of these initiatives will not come at the cost of resources for learning in classrooms. School finances are very structured and our use of funds are required to meet stringent audit requirements. All NSW State schools are audited regularly to ensure these guidelines are met.

New Reading Resources
The school has purchased additional reading resources to the value of $14000.00. The new books support the implementation of the Australian and NSW English curriculum.
This equates to about 38 magazine boxes of books for Years 1 to 6.
Not as much as you would think! They are, however, an exciting addition. The books are ideal for providing a link between text types covered in writing and the presentation of the same text type in a guided reader. Providing reciprocity between reading and writing is a powerful teaching and learning tool. Writing confirms what the children are learning in reading and provides the child with the opportunity to articulate their understanding orally and in written form.
Currently we are stocktaking all reading resources and organising them into a format that is in line with the new English Curriculums areas for Informative Texts, Imaginative Texts and Persuasive Texts. All guided readers will continue to be placed into Reading Recovery Levels within the three text areas.

Congratulations Blaxland
Look at the amount of food that was donated to Gateway Family Services from our Pyjama Day. The ladies at Gateway were thrilled to receive our donation of food and funds. Good on you Blaxland!
Student Awards
Term 3  Weeks 6 & 7

Mrs Lees
Lara H – excellent work in class
Luke B – excellent work in class
Joey W – excellent work in class
Harry S – excellent work in class
APs Award
Sacha McL – Honesty
Sophia W - Caring
VIPs
Sophia W, Aislinn W, Ryley D, Willem H

Mr Zoglmeyer
James M – displaying positive leadership skills
Angad P – trying problem solving strategies
Jacob V – great thinking in Mathematics
Emily K.J. – excellent work habits
APs Award
Jasmine S – Honesty
Alexander W - Caring
VIPs
Jasmine S, Lillian M, Chris S, Alexander W

Mrs Shaw
Lilly O – always being an enthusiastic and happy student
Ellie H – a great effort in reading
Woody S – excellent writing
Hudson F-E – huge improvement in attitude and behaviour
APs Award
Woody S – Honesty
Leonard N – being a caring class member
VIPs
Samantha E, Austin L, Rachel L, Ellie H

Mrs Palmer
Miranda P – her consistent hard work in class
Mikalya A – making efficient use of her time in class
Charlie S – wonderful effort in Writing
Riley J – wonderful effort in Reading
APs Award
Isabella M – Honesty
Dylan N – caring attitude towards others
VIPs
Ella H, Lochlan, Tilly M, Taleah V

Mr Ellwood
Lilly N – a beautiful Rowan of Rin cover
Thomas L – a fine written description
Nersus M – great care with publishing
Charlotte B – a beautiful Honesty poster
APs Award
Alistair B – Honesty
Talia L - Caring
VIPs
Finn A, Noah S, Austin M, Claire B

Mrs Ellwood
Andrew G – writing a super ‘Greek Myth”
Greta M – excellence in Mathematics
Sebastian N – excellent ‘myth’ writing
Jack W – lovely artwork
APs Award
Quinn D – Honesty
Lucy M – being a kind and caring school citizen
VIPs
Callie A, Tom M, Louise N, Tom M

Mr Foye
Natasha D – outstanding class citizen
Rhiana S – always giving her best
Tristan G – striving to improve
Lily H – enthusiasm towards learning
APs Award
Ruby H – Honesty
Rhiana S – kind, caring student
VIPs
Ben S, Tyler E, David R, Karlie D

Student Banking
I’m excited to announce we’ve just launched a brand new advertising campaign, focused on our collective commitment to School Banking.

The campaign illustrates how the School Banking program has helped generations of Australians start a lifelong habit of saving.
Parents are reminded that School Banking is available at Blaxland PS, deposits can be made any day of the week, just drop your folder into the office. There are some wonderful rewards to encourage your children to save.
Why not open an account today and save for the future.

Friday, 5 September 2014
Jackeroo Ranch (est. 53 years)
Recently relocated to Bingletree Station at Upper Turon, is again running Spring Vacation.

1st Week: Sat. 20th Sept. – Sat. 27th Sept.
2nd Week: Sat. 27th Sept. – Sun. 5th Oct.

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 hours 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)
www.jackerooranch.com.au