Term 1 – Week 2

**Permission Notes and Payments Due**

- **Voluntary Contribution** - $40 student or family $60
- **Textbooks** – $40 per student
- **Swimming Carnival** - $12 + note – Due by 10th February, no acceptance of late payments
- All other payments due by 8th April 2016

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

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**What’s Happening**

**Term 1**

**Week 3**
- 9th Feb. Band Information Night
- 10th Feb. Kindergarten Information Night, 7pm
- 11th Feb. Swimming Carnival, primary classes only

**Week 4**
- 16th Feb. Captains’ Induction

**Week 5**
- 23rd Mar. Mural for a Day – Year 6
- 24th Feb. School Photos
- 26th Feb. District Swimming Carnival
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.

Welcome back to school.
We hope the Christmas break was healthy, happy and restful.

For those families who suffered hardship and heartbreak our thoughts are with you. We send love and wishes to aid your healing. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you and those you love.

It is with hope and vision we begin another school year.

Welcome to new families and students. We know the school community will help you feel very much a part of the fabric of Blaxland in no time at all.

Welcome to Mrs Karen Dacey who will be working with Kindergarten this year. With Mrs Dacey comes a wealth of knowledge, skills and expertise in working with little people. Most importantly Karen brings with her a great love and respect for children, understanding, kindness, great expectations for the students in her care and as all great kindergarten teachers, a wonderful sense of humour! We feel blessed to have Karen on our team.

Classes are established. Thank you for your support and understanding during this time.

Our classes are:
Kindergarten D : Mrs Dacey
Year 1Z : Mr Zoglmeyer
Year 2 P : Mrs Palmer
Year 3 S : Mrs Shaw
Year 4/5 F : Mr Foye
Year 5/6 E : Mr Ellwood and Mrs Ellwood

Throughout the year staff works as a team on different initiatives.

Mrs Hall as our librarian work as part of that team with all staff.

Mr Ellwood and Mrs Ellwood will work with staff as release from face to face teachers.

Ms O’Brien is with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays and along with Mrs Ellwood and Mr Ellwood will support learning across the grades.

Mr Matheson is the school counsellor and is at school each Thursday.

Mr Purdy is the current general assistant at school one day per week.

Mrs Kingi is our school cleaner Monday to Friday each morning and afternoon.

Mr Zoglmeyer is our Assistant Principal and supervisor for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. Mr Foye is the Assistant Principal and supervisor for Years 3 to 6.

We wish everyone a wonderful start to 2016.

Administration Updates

Medical Notes
Parents may complete a one medical form for use by the school in terms of excursions with the exception of activities that involve water or overnight stays.

It is important however, that if your child’s medical information changes that you provide the school with an updated medical form.

The form is an attachment to this Newsletter. Alternatively contact the office.

Children with ongoing health care such as asthma need to provide the school with for e.g. an Asthma Management Plan. Please see your doctor who will be able to help you with a health care plan for the school.

Photo and Media Permission
Throughout the year photos are taken of students at play, in class and during special activities. The photos may be used for the school newsletter, local media, magazine or newspaper articles, shared with other schools and on the school website. The photos, over time are put together for the students on Open Day and in their Year 6 Farewell book and PowerPoint presentation. When using photos in newsletters we only use the first name of the child. Generally when posting photos on the school website we do not include names. The school does not post photos of students on Facebook.

If you do not wish your child to be included in these photos it is important that you advise the school in writing as soon as possible. Please ensure your child understands your wishes.
Screening of DVDs, Videos and TV Programs
During the year teachers may provide audio visual programs from DVDs, Videos and or Television programs as part of student learning and wellbeing. The school has a license and permission agreement in place with Roadshow in order to legally screen shows and is cognisant of the need for the program to have a general rating. **If you do not wish your child to be included in these activities please let the school know in writing.**

Scripture Lessons – Begin 10th February
Kindergarten to Year 6 (K – 6)
All schools are required to offer religious instruction. Scripture is timetabled to begin on Wednesday 10th February during the morning session.

We have, in the past made a request to the scripture coordinators that Blaxland be given an afternoon session timeslot or that the afternoon sessions are rotated through schools. Unfortunately, this organisation has not been possible.

Protestant teachers are available for students who are identified as Protestant. This includes Western Christian Churches for e.g. Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Church of England etc.

We are waiting for the Catholic Scripture coordinator to confirm arrangements for their scripture classes.

Could all parents, Kindergarten to Year 6, inform the office if they do not wish their child to attend scripture. Scripture rolls are under review for 2016.

Students who have an enrolment form with a nominated religion such as Catholic or Protestant attend those scripture groups unless we receive alternative instructions from parents.

Students not attending religious classes attend non-scripture.

During non-scripture students may complete homework, read or engage in private study. Policy dictates that school teachers are not to deliver teaching and learning during time allocated for religious instruction.

Further information may be sought through: [https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/ethics/SEEimplementproced.pdf](https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/ethics/SEEimplementproced.pdf) for further information about Ethics classes.

Unfortunately, our ethics classes coordinator has relocated to Dubbo. We are searching for a coordinator in order to be able to offer classes in 2016.

The coordinator organises trained ethics teachers to take classes. The role is not teaching.

If you feel it is something you would like to do please let us know on 0247392817.

Thank you for your support.

A Note from Blue Mountains Transit
“As we start a new year with new students, I want to bring to your attention to safety, lost frightened children and an emergency contact for the younger students.

This year will be different than other years with the new Opal cards replacing bus passes.

We will no longer be able to look up a name and be able to call mum or dad.

If I could suggest that parents write just a simple ‘In Case of Emergency’ number on or inside the students’ school bag in case of lost children, or missed stop. This could save a lot of tears and anxiety from students, parents, teachers and bus drivers.

Thank you”.

John Williams
Service Delivery Manager
Blue Mountains Transit

Kindergarten Parent Information Evening
Parents are invited to an information session on Tuesday 10th February at 7pm in the Kindergarten room.

Class Information Yrs 1 - 6
Information sheets for Years 1 to 6 will be sent by teachers to parents outlining teaching and learning plans for their classes.

Band Information Night - Tuesday 9th February
Year 3 to 6 parents and students are invited to a band information night on Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm. Mr Zoglmeier and the band master will be there to answer any questions you may have. Instruments will be available for hire on the night.
The School would also like to thank Trish Doyle, Blue Mountains local member, for her generous donation of a flute to our band.

Captain Inductions
The school community is invited to the induction of 2016 Captains, Student Representatives and Library Monitors on Tuesday 16th February at 11.30am.

Sun Safe – 2016 – K - 6
The school has been involved in a sun safe research project.
The project continues into 2016. Sunscreen will be available in all class rooms for use at recess, lunch and during sport times or times spent outside.
If your child cannot use sunscreen due to allergies or sensitivities please let your child’s class teacher know.

Head Lice – K - 6
It has been brought to our attention that there has been an outbreak of head lice in your child’s class. It is possible that your child may have contracted the condition. We are asking that all parents examine their child's hair for signs of lice infestation. The lice themselves are often hard to find because they move around on the head. Therefore, you should be looking for the eggs or nits. These appear as tiny silvery white specks attached to the hair shaft near the scalp. Dandruff and hairspray may look similar but these are easily brushed away, the eggs are not. Other signs of lice infestation may be a red rash and scratch marks on the scalp, nape of the neck or behind the ears.
If your child has contracted head lice do not be alarmed. Although the condition is unpleasant, it is easily treated with specialised treatments available from the chemist. After treatment use a fine tooth comb to remove the dead lice and eggs. Any articles that may harbour lice such as school hats, clothes, towels and bed linen should be washed in hot water and detergent. Combs and brushes should also be washed in hot soapy water. If possible, after washing, these items should be put into the sun to dry. As head lice are highly contagious it is suggested that you examine and treat all members of the family at the same time.
For the time being we will ask students to wear their hats in class. Please check your child daily over the next few weeks. Hopefully between treatments and the wearing of hats we may be able to lessen recurrences.
Further information can be found through:
http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/head_lice.html

Selective High School Tests
Placement tests will take place on Wednesday 10th March.
Students who have elected to participate in the tests will receive further information from the Department of Education by Thursday 25th February. If by that date you have not received an email or a letter through the post please contact the High Performing Students Unit.
Contact details are:
Postal address: Locked Bag 53, DARLINGHURST NSW 1300
Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 880 367 Fax: 02 9266 8435
Further information is available through:

Year 6 Fundraising
Year 6 will be selling chocolates at recess from Monday 9th February to begin their fundraising campaign for their gift to the school. Chocolates include Freddos, Crunchies, Time Outs etc at a cost $1 each.
Closer to Easter they will be selling bags of eggs for $4.
Thank You Year 6!

Library – K – 6
Library lessons are on Thursdays and Fridays. If there is a whole school event on a Friday and no Library lessons, children can still bring in their books to the returns tray in the morning.
A library bag is helpful in keeping the book clean and easier to find when it’s Library day. Please have your child’s name clearly on the bag.
Our Library is open on Thursdays and Fridays. It is open before school from 8.50 to 3.15 including lunchtimes.
Loans are for 2 weeks, however, it’s best if students get into the habit of returning their book every week. Premier’s Reading Challenge sheets are in the Library next to the search computer. You can start recording your readings for PRC now.
Premier’s Reading Website- https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html
Children can use their DET portal username and password to log into the PRC website. Check with Mrs Hall if you have any questions. You can always email Mrs Hall through the school email if you have any questions or offers of volunteering in the Library.
blaxland-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
There will be more news during the year through this newsletter about Chess clubs, drawing clubs, Library Monitors, book week and book fairs. I’ve got lots of exciting things planned for this year and I’m looking forward to 2015 with you all. See you in the Library!

Mrs Hall

Friday, 5 February 2016
Approximations for costs that may occur through the year

The following information is supplied in order to provide some indication of activities and costs for 2016 to support with family budgets and timetables.

It must be noted, however, that costs and activities are approximate and open to change throughout the school year.

Dates are dependent on District, Regional and State organisation for events, availability of staff, venues etc.

Costs are dependent on outside service providers such as book companies, transport companies, outside venues, etc and they too are open to change by companies.

We understand that sometimes budgeting can be challenging. If for any reason a family is unable to meet school financial requirements we encourage you to contact the office. One of the hardest things for us, as it is for parents is to see a child miss out. Please know that any information you share with us is regarded as confidential. We acknowledge this is not an easy thing for any parent to do, however, this may enable the school to better support your child.

Voluntary contributions K - 6
$40.00 per child
$60.00 per family

All costs listed are indicative and approximate.

Text Expenses
K – 6 (approx: $50.00)
All text books need to be purchased from the school at the start of the school year.

It is essential that all students purchase texts required.
If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact Mrs Smith, our School Administrative Manager, in the Office on 0247 392817. Information is regarded as confidential.

Craft - Kindergarten to Year 6
$40 per child.

Camps for 2016
At this stage we are still formulating plans for excursions and camps that support syllabus implementation in the school. Parents will be advised of details in 2016.

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### Possible activities and approximate expenses for 2016 – to be confirmed!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Approx Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Curriculum</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Enrichment Program</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Craft</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Performing Arts / Play / School Musical</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Environmental Day Yrs 3&amp;4</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Visiting Author</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Fitness</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Operation Art – for nominated students gifted in Art</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Excursion K – 2</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Excursions 3 – 6 (Possibly 2 - 3 during the year)</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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| **Student Welfare** – |
| Friendship Groups | $10.00 |
| Peer Support | $10.00 |

| **Fundraising** | total $50 |
| Activities such as: walk and thinkathon, cake stalls, Treat days, discos, mini fetes for e.g. Year 6, SRC, P&C, K – 2, Years 3 – 6 |

| **Sport** | |
| School Swimming Carnival (Yrs 3-5 bus costs and pool entry) | $12.00 |
| - School Athletics Carnival (Yrs 3-5 bus costs) | $15.00 |
| - Gymnastics | $40.00 |
| - Dance | $35.00 |
| - Intensive Swimming Scheme Yrs 2 – 6 Non / poor-swimmers | $120.00 |
| - Summer Games | $15.00 |
| - Winmalee Cup | $15.00 |

| **Shirts** | $40.00 |

| **Band** – Band Membership and lessons | $135.00 |
| Instrument hire | $30.00 |

| **School Photos** (cost depends on package purchased) | $10 - $50 |

| **End of Year School Activities** | |
| K – 2 Activity Day | $5.00 |
| Years 3 – 6 Blue Gum Lodge | $15.00 |
Text Books K - 6
Staff elected to go online with support for the implementation of the new Maths Syllabus.

We feel Origo Maths offers a wonderful suite of maths options for students and teachers that is highly motivational, in line with NSW Syllabus goals and extends a program of work that students have worked with previously.

The software is delivered through Slate. This includes:
- the program we are using, Stepping Stones;
- Stepping Stones Static;
- Mathedology;
- Zupelz;
- Teaching Tools;
- Teaching Notes
- Flare
- Fundamentals Games
- Thinking Caps
- Go Maths support
- Honey Pot

The cost for texts is $40. Please ensure payments for texts are received as soon as possible at the office. Accounts must be finalised by 8th April.

Accounts 2015
At the end of 2015 the school had $10,000 outstanding from accounts payable towards school activities such as class craft, fitness, texts, camps and incursions.

While we are aware life brings challenges to many of our families and we encourage any member of the school community to talk to us in confidence in regards to financial difficulties these outstanding amounts are not sustainable in terms of the impact it has on us as a school nor are they viable in regards to audit and accountability.

The reality of those funds is the loss of $10,000. Those are funds that could have been directed towards other learning opportunities for the children, the purchase of teaching resources such as IPADS, notebooks or ongoing improvements to the playground.

Blaxland Public School will always offer support where we can. We know the school community will always support those in need. This is the nature of our culture. However, for our overall wellbeing as a school it is essential that we all meet our financial obligations where possible.

As difficult as it is, unless prior arrangements are made with the office, payment and permission must be received at the office by the due date for extracurricular activities in order for students to attend.

Students not attending an activity will be supervised by another teacher who will provide learning in the key area involved.

In extenuating circumstances alternative arrangements may be implemented at the discretion of the principal.

We thank you for your understanding and support.

Interviews K – 6 4th to 8th April
This year interviews for Kindergarten to Year 6 will be held at the end of Term 1.

Teachers will have had a number of weeks to work with students and gain insight into the needs of each child.

We feel this gives teachers and parents the opportunity to discuss where the children are in their learning and in what direction their learning needs to go.

It is also an opportune time for teachers and parents to develop individual learning plans together if required.

Appointment times will be organised with parents in March.

Harmony Day K – 6 21st March
The school will engage in activities to celebrate cultural diversity. We share concepts of respect, inclusivity and the sense of belonging for everyone who calls Australia home. Harmony Day coincides with the United Nations’ Day for the elimination of racial discrimination.

Parents are welcome to join us.
Assembly time will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

P&C Meeting Monday 8th February
Our fabulous P&C has their first meeting on Monday 8th February at 7.30pm.
Everyone is welcome to come along.
Hope to see you there.