Wednesday 29th April 2015

It fills me with pride seeing our students placed in situations where they can shine. On Friday and Saturday last week this was an opportunity to show what our school is capable of. The ANZAC Parade held at school on Friday showed our students at their best, giving the respect, attention and gratitude to mark the special event, well done to all of our staff, parents and students. On Saturday, the attendance by our school community at Black River Beach, Beach Holm, was exceptional. Thank you to all of the parents and students who attended. The school choir followed up their performance on Friday to attend the Kelso RSL, which has led to the choir looking at other performances at other venues. Well done to the choir and Mrs Dew.

Prep enrolments 2016
If your child will be in Prep in 2016 and attending Bluewater State School please enrol as soon as possible. This will enable me to advocate for better resourcing at the school. If you are in catchment or you currently have a child enrolled at the school you are automatically eligible to enrol your prep child. If you have not yet enrolled and you are out of catchment then you will be placed on a waiting list and as positions become available we will inform you.

The numbers for 2016 are concerning with 42 students in year 6 leaving and history showing that of late 75 Prep’s enrolling (that meet the enrolment conditions) we will not have the facilities to accommodate the students. It is important that I can advocate with data to demonstrate that we will require more buildings. Better to do this sooner than later.

You can access the Enrolment Management Plan at: http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/catchment/plan-b/bluewater-ss.html
Hayden Wilson
One of our former students Hayden Wilson who now attends Northern Beaches State High School is currently on a wonderful trip through Turkey and Europe. He was in attendance at the Gallipoli dawn service, travelled to other battle sites in the middle east and will continue his journey to the Western Front in Europe as part of 70 students selected from around Queensland. You can follow his trip at http://education.qld.gov.au/students/grants/scholarships/anzac/index.html or google Premier’s ANZAC Prize. Hayden wants to pursue a career in the Australian Army in the future.

Northern Beaches Visit
In the near future, we will be welcoming teachers from Northern Beaches for a day who will be looking at how our teachers teach and what practices we use as a school. It is great to work with our local High school that will continue to benefit our students past their time here at Bluewater.

Leadership Camp
Next week we will be taking our 13 School Leaders on a very special Leadership camp to Orpheus Island. We will be placing our school leaders through a number of challenges to extend their leadership skills. We will also be visiting Fantome Island and looking around the leper colony that was established there in the 20th Century. I am looking forward to the trip with Mr Sanderson, Mr and Mrs Kent and Mr Pearson. We are hoping to make this an annual event with the school leadership group.

Mother’s Day Stall
Next Thursday 7th May, the P & C will be holding a Mother’s Day stall. There will be gifts available for purchase by the students ranging in cost from 50 cents to $10.

P and C Meeting
P and C Meeting will be on Tuesday 12 May in the library starting at 6:30pm.

NAPLAN
NAPLAN testing will be on May 12, 13 and 14. This is an annual event.

What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement. NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

Every year we have parents who wish for their child to be withdrawn from the tests, if you have concerns about the testing please contact the office.

A big thank you to the Tuckshop, Woolworths Northshore and Pace Farming who will be providing breakfast to the NAPLAN students from 8am each morning. A note will be sent home shortly to assist with catering.
Rugby League
Next week we start our NRL Cup campaign, Mrs Caruso, Mr May and our super coach Mr Crowdey have all worked hard putting together a talented side. We wish them luck in the knock out competition.

AFL
We will be competing in the AFL Gold Coast Suns Cup on May 28. This is open to all students in years 5 and 6. Thank you to Ms Buttegig who will be helping with the coaching of this team. Ms Buttegig is a Coach in the local Barra side and she is currently doing her Teacher placement with Mr Whiteford in Year 3/4B.

Rugby Union
We will be competing in the Rugby Union Development Cup on May 29. The Development Cup is a one day Rugby Union Carnival in which schools from throughout the North Queensland Region can compete. The aim of the carnival is to get schools from the region involved in rugby who may not usually have had the opportunity in the past. The aim is to provide an enjoyable and safe carnival for students, teachers and parents. In 2014, Bluewater was successful in winning the cup for the first time.

Absence News
We have made some changes to our process for actioning student daily absences at Bluewater school. This will ensure that all child/ren are safe and accounted for by 9:30 am of each day. We appreciate your support with this. There are three options you can choose from to advise us of your child’s absence.

1. Call the administration on 4751 2333 and leave a message on the answering machine at any time, or with office staff after 7:45 am.
2. Email admin@bluewatess.eq.edu.au stating your child’s name and reason for absence.
3. If you have two or more children at our school, send a letter with the other sibling and have them drop it to the office.

Our current whole school attendance rate is 93.8%. Our goal is to have it above 95%.

Every Day, Every Minute Counts in your child’s education.

Regards and have a great Mother’s Day next weekend.

Chris
A note from Chappy Drew:

I trust your children had a wonderful holiday; filled with lots of exciting memories to relive to their classmates. I saw a few students with casts on their wrists from falls...some things don’t change 😊.

ASY - A fun-filled after-school program for grades 4-6 (Wednesdays 3:00pm – 4:30pm)

ASY is here again for Term 2. We had a great time last term — averaging 21 students each week. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to know more about ASY. It’s not too late for your child to join in on the fun.

Food for Thought:

Letting go of the past – this is sometimes not an easy thing to do.

If you have been hurt badly by people or by circumstances, you can often find yourself reliving those experiences over and over in your mind. Think about this though – if you picked up a small pebble every time something upset you or someone offended you, and you refused to put it down, it wouldn’t be very long before you had collected an awful lot of pebbles. Carrying this burden would eventually start to impact all areas of your life; your health and your happiness.

And so it is with the hurts in your life. You can choose to not let go. You can cling tightly to the memory of every disappointment and negative experience. If you are like that, chances are you are not a happy or emotionally healthy person.

Recognise there is nothing you can do to change what has already happened. However, you definitely do have the power to decide whether you allow past hurts to wreak your future happiness...The choice is yours.

Blessings, and have a great week 😊

Chappy Drew

Thank you to all organised parents who remembered to remind their children about their Tea Towels. Students from 4/5B, 5B, 5/6B and 6B all had a fabulous time at the Face Painting workshop that was held on Tuesday the 21st. Leta, from Townsville Angel faces, taught the students a whole range of excellent techniques for Face Painting. Now the challenge for our seniors is to create their own design. Designs for our school houses, Rattlesnakes, Falcons and Fantomes.

The competition is on! The students who create the best house designs will be the official school ‘Face Painters’ at the athletics carnival at the end of the term. Students from all grades can have their faces painted by the winning Senior, on the morning of Athletics Day. This will help them show their house spirit.

A big ‘Thank You’ to Leta, from Townsville Angel Faces for coming to the school and giving us an insight into the creative world of Face Painting. You showed us the secrets of the professionals, and we are extremely grateful. Townsville Angel Faces is a business that provides Face Painting for all events. If you are holding an event and are looking for a Face Painter, contact Townsville Angel faces on 0402 788 950.

Mrs Dew

Thanks to all of our choralists who sang at our Anzac parade. We had some fabulous feedback from parents, teachers and other students. Some of the comments included ‘The Choir had a beautiful sound.’ ‘What a brave bunch of students.’ ‘What an amazing song.’ ‘We look forward to hearing them sing again on parade.’

I also had people say ‘it’s a shame that the younger students aren’t a part of choir’.

As a result of this feedback, I have decided to open the Choir up to students down to Year 1. Auditions to join the Choir will be held on Monday the 4th of May at first break. Any student from Years 1, 2 or 3, who would like to audition for the Choir, can come to the sight words room, at the play bell, to sing The Australian National Anthem. The top singers from the auditions, will be chosen to join The Choir to sing at the Eisteddfod in Term 3.

The Choir is a big commitment. Students need to be willing to rehearse at least 3 lunch breaks every week. I am looking forward to seeing the interested students at 1st break, in the Sight Words room, on Monday the 4th of May.

Mrs Dew

Artie’s Music and Stockland
Entertainer of the Year

Artie’s Music are once again holding their Entertainer of the Year event. This is an instrument competition only—sorry no vocal. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd certificates, with first place from each school going on to perform at the finals held at the end of the year. If your child is interested in participating, please see Mr Malcolm Cook for more details and an entry form.
Fundraising:
Please support the various fundraising activities arranged by the P&C as all proceeds are used to further improve the resources and facilities at the school.

Family Contribution:
A big thankyou to everyone that made their family contribution – we raised $3520. This amount exceeded our targets which saw Mr Anderson lose his hair and a lot of staff subjected to the ice bucket challenge. Thankyou also to the numerous staff that volunteered for the ice bucket challenge to increase motivation for raising further funds. Any families that missed making their voluntary contribution during term 1 and were wanting to contribute can still do so at the office or via the Tuckshop.

Hamilton Island (Major) Raffle:
This year’s major raffle is a family holiday to the Whitsundays and $1,000 cash spending money – tickets are $2 each and every family should have received a book of 20 tickets to get the ticket selling process underway. Please bring sold ticket stubs and money as well as unsold tickets back to the office by Wed 6th May.
Remember there are Samsung galaxy tablets as ticket seller prizes for the two top ticket selling families.

Tuckshop Star Wars Day:
This Monday we are participating in the “May the 4th be with you” theme at school (Star Wars).
We are offering some special snacks for the day. (These do not have to be pre-ordered. Students are welcome to buy these items at any break.)
- Light Sabres - $1 (grapes on a stick)
- Princess Leia Scrolls - 50c (vegemite on a bread scroll)
- Yoda Snacks - 20c (rice cracker with cheese)

Mothers Day Stall:
The P & C will be holding a Mother’s Day Stall on Thursday 7th May. Various gifts will be available for purchase with items ranging from 50c to $10 – students will be taken to the stall class by class. After all classes have visited the stall, any left over items will be available for purchase during lunch break by students wanting extra presents. All the dads out there: this is easiest way to do the mother’s day shop – send the kids to school with a bit of cash and save yourself a trip to the shops.....

Upcoming calendar of fundraising events:
- Wed 06/05 – Major Raffle ticket books (sold ticket stubs & unsold tickets) and money raised to be returned to the office.
- Thurs 07/05 – Mother’s Day stall
- Mon 11/05 – Major Raffle prize winners drawn
- Thurs 04/06 – Biggest Morning Tea (cake decorators start planning your cake design.....)
- Week 7-9 – Pie Drive

How can you get involved?
The P&C are always looking for new members. If you are interested in becoming a member or just want to see what happens at a P&C meeting please come along to the next meeting at 6:30pm on Tues 12/05 (in the library) - a special meeting will occur at 6:30pm to adopt the new constitution. This special meeting will be followed by a “normal” general meeting. If you are unable to get to P&C meetings, we are always looking for volunteers in the tuckshop and for people wanting to help out with fundraising events (e.g Mother’s Day stall) and the Country Fair.....

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Playgroup meets at Bluewater State School
the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month (during school term times)
9.00am -11.00am
Come along & have some fun with your child and meet new people in the area.
All Welcome
Cost $3.00 per session
Bring along a healthy plate of food to share.
These advertisers support us, please support them:

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