Dear families,

The four kindergarten classes KH, KD, KR and KP have settled in quickly and are already working and behaving like experienced 'big school' kids.

Congratulations to their teachers Miss Howick, Ms Davison, Mrs Rixon and Mr Pereira whose outstanding organisation, management and care has allowed the kindergarten students a happy and successful transition to Blairmount Public School.

Congratulations to the students for being great listeners and trying hard. Thank you also to all kindergarten parents who have ensured the children are at school on time, with all their belongings labeled. Parents have allowed the children to show independence by a 'kiss and drop' strategy, which ensures a positive and productive start to the day.

We understand that leaving your child at school can be worrying at times, especially if you are a 'new' parent. I can assure you, they are in very good and caring hands and that they are smiling and engaged the minute you leave the grounds!

On another note I just wanted to let you know that I will be taking long service leave during week 8 (18/3 - 22/3) of this term. In my absence Mrs Clarke will be relieving as Principal, I trust you will show her the same support as I have been shown during my time at Blairmount.

Regards
Greg Turnbull
Principal

Teacher Professional Learning

All teachers regularly engage in ongoing professional learning that is designed to meet the explicit targets outlined in the Blairmount school plan.

You may remember a couple of years ago Blairmount adopted the Accelerated Literacy pedagogy that changed the way teachers taught English in their classrooms. This change required each teacher to undertake six days of training. We have seen noticeable improvements in our English results since this change took place.

This year we have a significant focus on Mathematics and developing a consistent understanding of what a quality Mathematics session in the classroom looks like. As part of the process K-2 teachers will be learning about the Targeting Early Numeracy (TEN) framework and our 3-6 teachers will be focusing on the Taking Off With Numeracy (TOWN) framework.

Both of these programs will require classroom teachers to attend a number of training sessions and thus may be away from the classroom. I understand this may cause some concerns with parents, however please be assured that this short term disruption will undoubtedly have a long term benefit for all the students at Blairmount.

We would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their understanding of this matter in advance.
School Bus Update

As was indicated in our last newsletter the lease on our school mini bus has finished and the bus had been collected.

We were hoping that we would be able to purchase the bus outright at auction last week.

Unfortunately, the bidding on the bus went beyond our budget and we were therefore unsuccessful in purchasing it.

The executive team will now look at possible options, but in the foreseeable future Blairmount will no longer have its own mini bus.

Tuesday Afternoons

As many of you would be aware we have a problem on Tuesday afternoons with students from Eagle Vale HS finishing early and entering Blairmount PS. Unfortunately these high school students are behaving in an inappropriate manner towards our students, staff and parents.

To ensure the safety of our school community (students, staff and parents) we have decided that all gates will be locked at 2pm. However the pedestrian gate on Clydesdale Drive will remain open and those parents picking up students are of course welcome to enter the school. All gates will be unlocked at 3pm.

Please accept our apologies for this inconvenience; unfortunately it is necessary to ensure the safety of all concerned. We would like to thank you all in advance for your support and understanding in this matter.

Happy Birthday

Brayden Wales, Vili Poutasi, Mattyson Siilata, Shaun Tupou, Clayton Stokes, Kaleb Chatters, Malachi George, Julian Ganaden, McKayla Johnston, Leah Blinman, Claxton Lesaisaea, Sulaiman Matthews, Amelia Fernando, Elena Walters, Jack Dooms, Lusinita Taviliniu, Blake Brown, Daniel Devine, Elijah Avalii

You can now make payments for most school events online?

We have launched a new online payment portal linked to your school’s website to make it easier for you to pay for school related payments. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac.

When?
This payment method went live on Monday 25th February 2013.

How?
Log onto School site at: www.blairmount-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Click on “$ Make a Payment” and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard.

School Photos 2013

SAVE THE DATE…
TUESDAY 26TH MARCH 2013
Blairmount Public School Photo Day

Individual envelopes will be coming home on Monday 11th March 2013.

Payment is to be sent with your child on photo day and given directly to photographer

We do not handle any money.

Family photos will be available and Family envelopes are available from the front office. Only students attending school can be photographed together, no pre-schoolers.

The prices range from $20.00 to $30.00 for Family Photos.

The prices for Individual/class photos start at $24.00 and go to $38.00 for the Premium pack.

Mrs S Jones

Assembly

Our next K-6 assembly will be held on Friday 15th March. This assembly will be hosted by 6C. All parents are welcome to attend.
Stewart House / Smith Family 2013 Clothing Appeal

On Thursday May 23rd the Stewart House/Smith Family Clothing bags are due to be collected.

As always the bags will go home several weeks before that date to allow you time to get organised.

Please start putting aside clean clothes you may no longer need, so they can be donated to families who are less fortunate.

Blairmount P.S has always been a strong supporter of the Stewart House Children’s Charity and The Smith Family. Your continued support of these organisations will be greatly appreciated.

Mrs Murray

Library News

The library timetable is now finalised and up and running. Borrowing days are listed below:

Every Week

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<td>1A</td>
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Fortnightly (Odd weeks) - Weeks beginning: 25\textsuperscript{th} Feb, 11\textsuperscript{th} March, 25\textsuperscript{th} March 8\textsuperscript{th} April

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<td>3K</td>
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Fortnightly (Even weeks) Weeks beginning: 18\textsuperscript{th} Feb, 4\textsuperscript{th} March, 18\textsuperscript{th} March, 1\textsuperscript{st} April

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Issue 2 bookclub will be sent home soon. Orders are due at school on or before Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} March.

Bookfair Our first bookfair will start next week and run for 2 weeks, possibly 3 weeks if sales are good. Children may purchase items in their library times or at lunchtime. Parents may visit before school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.30 a.m. until 9 a.m. Items will start from $1.

Mrs C. Burden
Teacher/ Librarian

Clean Up Australia Day - Rescheduled

Due to the bad weather last week Blairmount will now participate in the ‘School’s Clean Up Australia Day’ tomorrow - Friday 8\textsuperscript{th} March. The students from Years two to six will join over 2,000 schools around the country to help remove rubbish from our precious environment.

The students will clean up our immediate school environment as well as the external fence line. Each participating student will be issued with a pair of gloves and closely monitored by supervising teachers.

This is an excellent opportunity for our students to be involved in service to the community.

Literacy News

This term students from years 1-6 will be focussing on persuasive writing.

We encounter persuasive writing every day. Whether it’s the radio announcer telling you why you should keep listening to his station, a magazine article on your favourite rock star, or even the Prime Minister giving a speech, persuasive writing plays an important part in our everyday life.

In a persuasive text, the goal is to try and convince people to agree with you. It is important to understand that persuasive writing relies heavily on facts - not opinions.

Ways to help at home:

- If your child asks for something, e.g. more time watching T.V., ask them to give you 2 reasons why they should be allowed.
- Listen to or read examples of persuasive writing. Together, listen and look for words, phrases and techniques that helped the writer persuade you.
- Create lists for and against topics of interest. E.g. Why I should play football on the weekend?

This is an example of a persuasive text written by class 5A. For this topic, ‘Cars should be banned in the City’ 5A could see and argued both sides of the issue.
Cars should be banned in the City

Do you like being stuck in city traffic? There are always a lot of cars on the road in the city. Some people believe cars should be banned from the city but others do not. Cars should be in the city so people can travel around easily and emergency vehicles can get in and out. Cars shouldn’t be in the city because they cause too many accidents.

Firstly, we strongly believe cars should be banned from the city because they create too much pollution. Pollution can make the residents very sick, it may even cause death. For example, people who suffer from asthma can easily have an attack if the pollution levels are high. Also, cars cause noise pollution. Noise pollution can disturb residents while they are at work or while they are trying to sleep.

Another reason cars should not be in the city is because pedestrians can be injured and cars cause traffic jams. When there are a lot of cars in the city pedestrians have a greater chance of being injured or possibly killed. Also traffic jams cause road rage. Drivers can become very angry and frustrated when stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

On the other hand, we need cars in the city because people need to travel around. The city is a big place. What about the elderly people, they cannot walk far? People need to get around the city freely and public transport isn’t always reliable.

In addition, cars should not be banned in the city because there are always emergencies. If no cars were allowed in the city how would emergency vehicles get to people in trouble? Also, it is really important for people to get to things like doctor’s appointments and interviews and they need cars to get them there on time.

To conclude, cars are both important but dangerous things. Many people, especially the elderly, rely on them but they can cause a lot of damage, injuries and frustration. We believe that there should be a limit on the number of cars in the city but not banned altogether.

No Hat – No Play

A reminder for all parents every child is required to wear a hat for play. Students need to bring a hat to school to wear in the playground everyday. During this week we will be reminding all students to have hats on for playground time. No Hat No Play! Parents please make sure your child’s name is marked on the inside.

Attendance Champions

NAPLAN Parent Workshop

Attention Parents / Carers you are invited to a NAPLAN workshop. We will go through a NAPLAN test and give some ideas on ways you can help at home.

When: 3:10pm Wednesday 27th March
Where: Blairmount Public School
Who: NAPLAN literacy Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Richardson
          NAPLAN Numeracy Mrs. Sammut and Mrs. Webb

We hope you can join us!
For further information contact Mrs. Gibbs or Mrs. Webb
Cake Stall & Easter Raffle
Thursday 28th March 2013

After a successful 2012 raising over $5000.00 to help support the students of Blairmount Public School, it’s that time of year again where we are raising funds for our school towards the swimming scheme, mobile iPad lab, year 6 farewell cake and other needs that will no doubt pop up during the year.

We are asking for donations from families of biscuits, cakes, muffins, cupcakes etc that can be sold at our cake stall. All donations can be dropped off to the hall on the morning of 28th March 2013.

Our cake stall will be held straight after the K-2 Easter Hat Parade during lunch time & recess. The P&C will also be selling Easter raffle tickets $1 each.

Every child will receive a book of 5 tickets which they can sell to family and friends. There will be a first, second and third prize.

The Easter raffle will be drawn at the K-2 assembly and the winner will be notified if not in attendance at that time.

PLEASE RETURN ALL UNSOLD TICKETS
THANKING YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
Blairmount P&C
Helping your child with counting

How do children learn to count and use numbers?

One of the first experiences children have with numbers is ‘counting.’ As children’s counting develops, they begin to relate the words to a quantity or number of things. Children need to be given lots of opportunities to practise and explore counting groups as well as making groups. Children also need to recognise and name numbers.

What can you do at home?

- Count the number of times you and your child can throw a ball to each other without dropping it.
- Have your child count as far as he/she is able to and then encourage your child to join you while you continue counting.
- Ask your child to start counting from a number other than one. This will help them when they need to add two groups together and can start counting from the larger group.
- Ask your child to tell you the number before and after a number.
- Play games such as dominoes, snakes and ladders, card games or board games involving a dice with dot patterns. This will help your child to recognise patterns and count.
- Look at and say the numbers on road signs and number plates.

Adapted from Department of Education and Communities - Parents Count Too pamphlet

Maths Challenge

This pattern made with matchsticks has six triangles.

How many matchsticks in total are needed to make nine triangles?

9  13  19  27

The answer will be in the next school newsletter.  Naplan 2009
BLAIRMOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOL’s NEW SCHOOL RULES:

Students at Blairmount Public School have been busy learning their new school rules including the difference between desirable and undesirable behaviour.

- Do your best
- Let others learn
- Participate in learning
- Follow directions and instructions
- Be prepared for learning
- Keep focused and stay on task
- Actively listen

- Always be polite and use your manners
- Be cooperative
- Respect your own, others and school property
- Respect yourself and take responsibility for your actions
- Respect your school and the people and creatures in it
- Wear your school uniform with pride
- Respect the feelings of others
- Respect all natural and built environments
- Keep your play and eating areas clean from rubbish
- Be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.
- Be sun safe – Wear a hat or stay under shelter
- Move safely at all times
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Use all equipment correctly
- Travel safely to and from school
- Stay safe in cyberspace

Students are encouraged to demonstrate desirable behaviour at all times by following the school rules and earn some of our fabulous new awards including:

~ Desirable Playground Behaviour Awards ~
   ~ Being a Learner Award ~
   ~ Being Respectful Award ~
   ~ Being Safe Award ~

~ Being a Safe and Respectful Learner Term Award ~

Please support and encourage your child to learn the new school rules and demonstrate desirable behaviour by following these at all times.
say cheese
School Photo Day is
Tuesday 26 March 2013

*Have your child’s school memories captured forever*

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points:

- Don’t seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope however each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day

- Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request

- Please enclose correct money as no change is given. Cash, cheques and money orders only on the day

- Credit card payments can be made online (please follow instructions on envelope) or by calling our friendly MSP Office staff prior to the day. Your child will still need to take their envelope with them on the day.

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us

- sydney@msp.com.au
- p +61 2 9499 6555
- f +61 2 9499 6585
- www.msp.com.au
## Blairmount Public School - Term 1 - 2013

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28 January Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>29 School Development Day (Teachers Only)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1 February</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>16 Teacher Meet and Greet 3.15pm</td>
<td>19 Kindergarten Vision Screening</td>
<td>20 Kindergarten Vision Screening</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 Issue 1 of Bookclub Due</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Kindergarten Hearing Testing</td>
<td>28 Kindergarten Hearing Testing</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>11 P &amp; C Meeting 6pm</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14 Assembly</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>18 Book Fair</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 Harmony Day K-6</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 PSSA Gala Day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 School Photos</td>
<td>27 NAPLAN Parent Workshop 3.15 - 4.00pm</td>
<td>28 Easter Hat Parade K-2</td>
<td>29 Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1 April Easter Monday</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>4 Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>5 PSSA Gala Day 2</td>
</tr>
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<td>11</td>
<td>8 K-2 Attendance Disco P &amp; C Meeting 6pm</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 3-0 Attendance Disco</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 Cross Country Fun Run Assembly 60 Last Day Term 1</td>
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**International Competitions and Assessments**

Students in Years 3-6 are invited to participate in the 2013 International Competitions and Assessments (formally Australasian Schools Competitions). For the first time, Year 2 are invited it participate in the English and Mathematics Assessments. The competitions are conducted each year by Educational Assessment Australia, an organisation of the University of NSW.

The following competitions are available to students, along with the sitting dates for each, in 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Tuesday 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Wednesday 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; August</td>
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The entry fee for each student is $8.80 per competition for Computers, Science, Mathematics and English and $12.10 for spelling. The Writing competition papers, are individually marked by experienced markers, and thus have an entry fee of $18.70. Students from all 3-6 classes are invited to take part in all competitions and Year 2 in English and Mathematics however; you may wish to discuss your child’s participation with their class teacher.

If you wish your child/children to participate in any of the competitions, please sign and complete the attached permission note, indicating the competitions your child will be taking part in, and return the permission note and money to school no later than **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013**.
BLAIRMOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOL
P&C ASSOCIATION

Mothers’ Day Stall

Children need to pre-order & pay for Blairmount Money before Friday 12th April.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On Wednesday 8th May 2013, the P&C will be running the annual Mothers’ Day Stall. The Stall allows children to purchase a special gift for their mother, grandmother or special someone, while at the same time raising money for Blairmount Public School P&C. Participation in this event is entirely voluntary.

THIS YEAR, WE ARE DOING THINGS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT.

For this year’s Mothers’ Day Stall:
- The P&C are purchasing all of the gifts to be sold at the stall.
- No gifts need to be donated by parents for the stall.
- Gifts range in price from $1, $2, $3, $4 & $5

A limited amount of gifts will be purchased children who have pre-ordered and paid for Blairmount Money will be given the opportunity first to purchase a gift or gifts of their choice, anything that is left over will be sold at lunch time.

This year’s PRE-PURCHASED stall will provide your child with the opportunity to purchase more than one gift if they choose so. There is NO LIMIT to the number of gifts that can be purchased providing they have purchased Blairmount Money prior to the day.

In order to streamline the running of the stall, the reply slip below needs to be completed and returned with your order. (Blairmount Money will be handed out to children on the day of the stall. $1 =1 Blairmount Dollar).

What do you need to do before the day?
Please return the attached slip, along with all monies addressed to P&C Mother’s Day Stall, in a sealed envelope to the front office by Friday 12th April. (This will give us time to order & arrange gifts).

Children will be purchasing gifts – Wednesday 8th May

____________________________

RSVP RETURN SLIP - Mothers’ Day Stall
Return this slip & monies by Friday 12th April

Child’s Name: ________________________________ Class: ______

Amount of money enclosed $________________________