Dear families,

Today the Blairmount community has enjoyed Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. All the students today have celebrated our cultural diversity with performances, music, crafts, games, sports and a food festival.

I hope everyone has enjoyed this special day and I would like to thank Mrs Cavallaro, Mr Alone and all our parents in advance for all their hard work in organising such a fantastic day. Photos from today will be put up around the school and in our next newsletter.

It is days like today that make me very proud to be a part of the staff at Blairmount Public School.

Regards
Melissa Clarke
Rel. Principal

School Photos 2013

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

All envelopes have been sent home, payment is to be sent with your child on photo day and given directly to the photographer. Please contact the front office if you have not received an envelope.

We do not handle any money.

Envelopes for Family portraits 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

Concerns at School

From time to time parents and carers have questions or concerns regarding incidents at school. Should you have any questions regarding your child’s schooling you should always approach the class teacher first for clarification.

Should you not be able to resolve the issue please make an appointment to see myself, Deputy Principal (Mrs Melissa Clarke), or the Principal (Mr Greg Turnbull).

Do not, under any circumstances, approach other students directly regarding incidents at school.

We thank you in advance for your understanding in this matter.

Parental Access to Computer Lab

We understand that not all students have access to the internet at home to access Mathletics. Therefore, our Computer Lab located opposite the hall will be open every Wednesday from 3:15pm to 4:00pm for those students and their parents who do not have the internet at home. Please note this is not a tutoring service and all children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.
Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parent / Teacher Interviews will be held in WEEK 10 of this term. At the interview you will have time to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

Ready, Set, School Program

The Ready, Set, School program is a transition program for all children beginning Kindergarten in 2014. The program has been running for the past few years and we have received wonderful feedback from parents. They feel their children are better prepared for Kindergarten and teachers are also seeing the benefits of students who have participated in the Ready, Set, School program. The program will increase your child's readiness for Kindergarten and help engage parent/carers in understanding the education process.

Beginning next term, the program will take place each Wednesday morning from 9.15am - 11am and will run for 8 weeks. It is very important that your child attends every session. Parents are asked to stay with their child for the first three weeks only. Parents will then be given the opportunity to take part in a variety of planned parent workshops.

Each session will have a specific focus with a variety of activities including literacy, numeracy, music, art, craft and social play. There will also be opportunities to visit the library, computer lab and become more familiar with different areas of the school. Many different skills will be highlighted including some simple, cheap and effective ideas for you and your children at home.

We are now starting to take bookings for Terms 3 & 4. To ensure your child's place in the program or if you have any questions, please contact Penny Golledge or Moses Alone on 4626 1795.

Prac Teachers

Blairmount PS will be hosting five final year "student teachers" at our school this semester. They will be here for some single days this term and for a four week block next term. The classes involved are 1C, 2L, 3G, 5A and 6D. It is a wonderful opportunity for these University of Western Sydney students to witness excellence in classroom practice. Please make them feel welcome.

Literacy News

3G have been studying the book 'Flood' by Jackie French in their Accelerated Literacy lessons. This week they were learning about personification. This is where inanimate objects are given human characteristics. Below are some examples of the wonderful work from 3G:

The tornado was the enemy. It tore my house down then threatened to kill my family.

Tynieka 3G

The waves were the enemy. They threw me from wave to wave and threatened to drown me.

Dallin 3G

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Tilden and Michael who represented our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival. Both children swam excellent races and Tilden made it in to the 50m freestyle final.

Happy Birthday

Library News

Because there are still lots of children purchasing items at the bookfair, we will extend it for another week. Parents are welcome Monday and Wednesday mornings before school to have a look.

A reminder that Issue 2 bookclub is due back this Friday. Children will also receive a clearance brochure from bookclub and this is due back on or before Thursday 28th March.

Mrs C. Burden
Teacher Librarian

School Fun Run

We will be holding an adidas School Fun-Run as a major fundraising event this year. The event will be held on Friday 12th April within the school grounds.

The adidas School Fun-Run is a healthy, fun and active fundraiser that ensures we send the right message to our students about getting active, having fun and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The main focus of this event is on participation. Family support is most appreciated as we encourage all students to get involved.

All students have received a Sponsorship Form to help collect sponsorship on behalf of the school. The funds raised will be used towards the Year 6 Farewell.

We ask all parents to read the Sponsorship Form and sign the front page to grant permission for their child to fundraise and participate in this event. Students who raise just $10 or more will receive a reward for effort. On the Sponsorship Form you will also find many other benefits like the chance to win a family holiday to Disneyland!

Students wanting to train for our event and to receive advice from sporting heroes like Sally Pearson and Jonathan Brown, can do so by logging onto schoolfunrun.com.au/students and clicking on mi adizone.

Finally, we would like to welcome parents and family members to attend the adidas School Fun-Run event day at the school on Friday 12th April to help cheer on the students.

Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!

Elizabeth Dash

Attendance Champions

Well done to class 1L for being the attendance champions for this fortnight.
The P&C have again put together a great Easter raffle. Prizes are 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th. A book of 5 tickets has been sent home with each child. Tickets are also available from Ms Low at the breakfast club each morning for $1 each. Please make sure all tickets are returned to the front office by the 25th March 2013. Any unsold tickets also need to be returned.

The raffle will be drawn at the K-2 Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 28th March 2013 and the winner will be notified if not in attendance at the time.

The P & C 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 the 28th March.

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

Easter Hat Parade

Just a reminder that the Easter Hat Parade is on next Thursday 28th March 2013. All students from K-2 will be involved. Children will need to make their own easter hat at home but they will make a set of bunny ears at school in case they are needed on the day. Please make sure that no chocolate is used to decorate the hat.

The parade will begin at 10am on the asphalt. Parents are invited to stay and have a picnic lunch with your child/ren and purchase cakes from the P&C cake stall.

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
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 to 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Tuesday 21st May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday 5th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 18th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 17th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Wednesday 31st July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 13th August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 permission note sent home earlier, indicating the competitions your child will be taking part in, and return the permission note and money to school no later than Wednesday 3rd April 2013.
What's happening in the Community

FAMILY FUN BBQ

Where: Davis Park
Dobell road, Claymore
(Opposite the school)

When: Tues 16th April 2013
11am to 1pm

* In the event of rain, this event will be cancelled

ALL WELCOME!

Free BBQ

Fun activities for all ages!

UnitingCare Burnside

If you require further information please call 4627 8012

ZEST FOR LIVING?

Join our Seniors Week Celebrations

- Thrill your friends with your Zumba moves
- Relax with the gentle actions of Tai Chi
- Enjoy a healthy lunch
- Chat with old friends and meet someone new
- Try your luck with a Lucky Door prize

20th March 2013
11am – 2pm
Claymore Community Centre
Corner Dobell and Gould Roads, Claymore
Transport from local community centres is available

For more details and to book a seat call 4626 2007

This is a collaborative event between Seniors Groups from Annangrove / Rosemeadow, Claymore Macquarie Fields and Wattle Grove.

Everyone welcome! Live Life!

Claymore CHILD & FAMILY CONNECT

Stories in the Street

DATE: Tuesday, 25th of March 2013
TIME: 10:00am to 1:00pm
LOCATION: Fullwood Way, Claymore

Collect your Books in Homes packs
+ Hot Cross Buns
+ Easter Egg Hunt

If you would like to know more about this event please contact Ann Tibbles or Jodi Charnock on:
p: 4627 1188
Helping your child with number

How do children learn to use numbers?

When first learning to use numbers, children will need to have the objects with them in order to add, subtract, multiply or share equally (divide). They will go through a process of needing to see and count each thing, one at a time. We need to help children learn to start counting on from a larger number to add or subtract a second number. We also need to help children build mental images of a group of things so that they do not always have to rely on seeing the objects. Helping children to mentally ‘see’ groups of things will also help them to understand multiplication and division before they learn their times tables.

What can you do at home?

- Play board games such as Snakes and Ladders with two dice and encourage your child to add the two numbers rolled. Show them how to count on from the larger number.
- Play card games such as 21 or bust. In this game, two cards are dealt to each player who adds the numbers together. Each player may ask for more cards from the pile with the aim of being the person with the highest score that does not go over 21.
- Count the number of eggs in a carton, and again after some have been removed. Ask your child, How many were taken?

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

Maths Challenge

Which net when folded makes a triangular based pyramid?

The answer will be in the next school newsletter.

Naplan 2009

ANSWER for QN 89 from last newsletter – 19.
BLAIRMOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOL’s NEW SCHOOL RULES:

Students at Blairstown 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

e sydney@msp.com.au
p +61 2 9499 6555
f +61 2 9499 6585
www.msp.com.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WK</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>18 Teacher Meet and Greet 3.15pm</td>
<td>19 Kindergarten Vision Screening</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 Issue 1 of Bookclub Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Kindergarten Hearing Testing</td>
<td>28 Kindergarten Hearing Testing</td>
<td>1 March K-6 Assembly (2.15pm) 4:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 Clean Up Australia Day (12.45pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 Assembly 6C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 Harmony Day K-6</td>
<td>22 PSSA Gala Day 1</td>
</tr>
<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 Parent / Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>3 Parent / Teacher Interviews</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 PSSA Gala Day 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9 K-2 Attendance Disco</td>
<td>10 3-6 Attendance Disco</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 Cross Country - Fun Run Assembly 6D Last Day Term 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mothers’ Day Stall

Children need to pre-order & pay for Blaimount 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 Blaimount 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 Blaimount 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 Blaimount 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. (Blaimount Money will be handed out to children on the day of the stall. $1 = 1 Blaimount 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 $________________________