Dear families,

I trust everyone enjoyed the Easter long weekend, and having that little bit of extra time to spend with their families.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Clarke for doing such a wonderful job as Rel. Principal while I was on leave; it is so comforting knowing that when I am away the school is in such capable hands.

Unfortunately due to my leave I missed our Harmony Day celebrations. A huge congratulations must go to all our staff, students and parents for making it such a fantastic event. I have heard nothing but positive feedback and more than one person has said it was the best ever.

Last week I had the pleasure of joining with our K-2 students for our annual Easter Hat Parade. The students looked fantastic and it was wonderful to see so many parents join us at school for the celebration.

As will be our last newsletter for the term, I would like to wish all families a wonderful holiday and hope you enjoy your time together.

Please note that students return for term 2 on Wednesday 1st May. We have two School Development Days at the beginning of term 2. All public schools were provided with an extra school development day in term 2 this year to support the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum.

Teacher Professional Learning

As you may have heard in the media the new Australian curriculum will begin to be implemented in all schools from the beginning of next year.

This is extremely exciting for teachers, as we will finally have some consistency as to what is taught across all states and territories in Australia. However anything new brings challenges and there will be much professional learning for all teachers so that they develop a deep understanding of the new documents and a clear vision of how they will be implemented.

To start this planning at Blairmount the executive team will join the executive from two other local schools tomorrow (Friday 5th April) for a full day conference about the Australian curriculum and to plan how we will be supporting our staff in its implementation.

As there will be no Blairmount executive on site during the day I have organised for the Deputy Principal from Leumeah Public School, Mrs Teresa Gosche to spend the day at Blairmount. I am sure you will make her feel most welcome during her visit.
Easter Hat Parade

A huge thanks to all our parents for making our Easter hat parade such a success. I am sure you will all agree when I say the hats were amazing!

All our students had a terrific time and really enjoyed the visit from the Easter bunny.

It was a wonderful team effort by our staff, parents and students, thank you!

New Canteen Operator

As some of you may be aware, Blairmount Public School will have a new canteen operator from the beginning of term 2.

Ms Low who most of you know through her role as our Community Liaison Officer or her work with the P&C has decided for a change in career and has successfully tendered for the operation of our school canteen.

Ms Low is very excited about this new opportunity and is looking forward to providing our students with exciting, healthy food.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Melissa Payne for her work in the canteen over that last three years. Her support of our students has been greatly appreciated.

Happy Birthday


Peer Support 2013

The time has come again for peer support. This is a whole school program that involves Year 5 & 6 students leading K-4 students in engaging activities. This year the peer support program is called Living Positively.

What is the Peer Support Program?

The Peer Support program provides a fun and engaging environment for students to address issues such as relationships, bullying, resilience and values. Modules are designed to equip students with skills to deal proactively with life experiences, develop a sense of self worth and connectedness, and to encourage taking responsibility for decisions and behaviour.

How does the Peer Support Program work?

Trained Peer leaders (Year 6 Students) facilitate activities with small groups of younger students. A teacher supervises each group, which includes two Peer leaders and 8-10 students of mixed ages.

The whole school will be involved in this program next term.

Peer leaders benefit by:

- building positive relationships
- practising leadership skills
- developing confidence in leading a group
- acting as a positive role model
- enhancing life skills
- developing organisational and time management skills.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all students involved. It will allow all students to receive leadership training and enable them to build self-confidence and greater connections within the school.

Please read the brochure that is inside the newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Miss Dash.

Thanking you for your support,

Miss Elizabeth Dash
Rel. Assistant Principal
**Fun Run 2013**

Blairmount’s fun run is taking place next week on Friday 12th April starting at 9:15am. All children K-6 will take place in the fun run and all parents are invited to watch. Children will have different distances to run depending on their age.

The sponsorship forms are all due by Thursday 11th April and depending on the money that each individual child raised they will receive a prize. The money raised will go towards our Year 6 farewell, we annually fundraise for this event so when every child is in Year 6 they will also receive a nice farewell.

Thanking you for all your support
Elizabeth Dash

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**Home Reading Hints**

**Home reading.....**

- books should be easier to read than the texts being taught in class
- is reading practise, not learning to read
- should be done for at least 10 minutes each afternoon
- cards should always be signed by parents/carers
- most importantly should be enjoyable and STRESS FREE

Happy home reading!!!!
The Literacy Committee

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**National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2013 (NAPLAN)**

In May 2013 the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from **14-16 May 2013**.

**Tuesday 14 May**
- Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)
- Writing

**Wednesday 15 May**
- Reading

**Thursday 16 May**
- Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, chance and data; and Space)

**Friday 17 May**
A “catch-up” day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Please make an appointment with the school Principal if you would like further information about your child's participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at: [http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html)

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**2013 Stewart House Donation Drive**

You could win a **$4000 family holiday**!!!!!

Your child/children would have taken home a white envelope for the 2013 Stewart House Donation Drive.

Please assist us in continuing to support this amazing children's charity by placing a donation, (minimum of $2) in the envelope. Please fill it out, seal it and return it to school no later than Friday, 10th May for your chance to win a $4000 family holiday.

This will be drawn on Friday, 24th May at 1.00pm at Stewart House Head Quarters.

Thank you and good luck!!!!
Mrs Murray
Helping your child with numbers

What can you do at home?

- Ask your child to tell you the number before or after a number. How old will you be next year? How old were you last year?
- Look at and say the numbers on license plates and road signs. Can they say what the number is plus 10 more or 20 more?
- Ask your child to start counting from a number other than one. This will help when they need to add two groups together and can start counting from the larger group.

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

Harmony Day 2013

A huge thanks to all our generous and supportive parents for making Harmony Day so special!

The students had a terrific time and proudly celebrated our multiculturalism by wearing traditional dress, performing dances, songs, poems, sport, decorating national emblems and sharing their favourite, delicious delicacies and I know all our parents really enjoyed having a taste of the Hungi.

It was a wonderful team effort by our staff, parents and students, thank you!

Woolworths Earn and Learn Program 2013

Our school is taking part in Woolworths Earn & Learn community program. This year, they are giving away more than $5 million worth of educational resources for schools all over Australia.

From Monday 8th April until Sunday 9th June 2013, when you shop at Woolworths you will be given Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. There’ll be one Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent, excluding cigarettes, liquor and gift cards. Collect these Woolworths Earn & Learn Points, bring them to school and we will be able to redeem these for educational resources.

We were very successful in this program last year and it is all thanks to your support. We received many resources to support the learning of our students in all key learning areas. Here are students in 3K investigating and exploring a cubic metre, using one of the resources that we got from the Earn and Learn program last year.

Maths Challenge

NAPLAN 2009

Noni made this table showing the price of petrol for different towns around Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Price per litre (cents)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>128.6</td>
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<td>Katherine</td>
<td>124.8</td>
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<td>Tennant Creek</td>
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<td>Alice Springs</td>
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<td>Cairns</td>
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<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>106</td>
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<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>114</td>
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</table>

(i) In which town is the cost of petrol about 20 cents more than in Cairns?

Darwin ☐ Katherine ☐ Alice Springs ☐ Tennant Creek ☐

*Answer for Qn 88 from last newsletter
Clean Up Australia Day

The School’s ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ was held on Friday the 8th March due to wet weather on March the 1st. The students from Years Two to Six joined over 2,500 other schools around the country to help remove rubbish from the environment.

The students cleaned all areas of the school grounds and the external fence-line. Most rubbish was found around the perimeter of the school, including the gutters and pathways. A lot of rubbish was caught under and against the fences and in the bushes and plants in the school gardens and those particularly along the fence-line. The rubbish consisted mostly of pieces of paper, plastic bags and wrappings. Disturbingly items such as cigarette butts and beer bottles were also found within the school grounds.

The students demonstrated national pride and a great sense of community as they worked together to make our part of the country a cleaner environment.
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.
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<td>28 January Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>1 February</td>
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<td>Teacher Meet and Greet 3:15pm</td>
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<td>Issue 1 of Bookclub Due</td>
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<td>PS3A Gala Day 1</td>
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<td>Mother's Day Stall</td>
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<td>Student Reports go Home</td>
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<td>Last Day Term 2</td>
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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

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

Child’s Name: ___________________________ Class: _______

Amount of money enclosed $______________