Dear Families

Welcome back to the final and arguably the busiest term of the year. This term there are a number of exciting events ahead, which we are all really looking forward to.

I would like to congratulate all the students for the way they have returned after the holidays and engaged in their learning. We truly do have excellent teachers and engaged learners.

Regards
Greg Turnbull
Principal

Staffing News

Ms Lawton finishes with us this Friday to begin her maternity leave. From Monday 20th October until the end of the year Mr Middleton will be on 2/3L. We would like to wish Ms Lawton all the very best with the next journey in her life.

Mrs Webb will be leaving us at the end of the year. She has been on maternity leave and has returned to Blairmount for 2 days per week for this term. Mrs Webb has however been successful in gaining through merit an Assistant Principal's position at Warilla North PS. We would like to thank Mrs Webb for the knowledge and expertise she has shared with the staff of Blairmount PS and wish her all the very best as the next stage of her career begins.

Finally, Mrs Thompson who has been working at Bellambi PS for the last few years was due to return to Blairmount in 2015. However she has received a transfer to Berkley PS, she is extremely excited to be moving to a school much closer to home. We wish her all the best in the future.

At this stage we are not sure how Mrs Webb’s and Ms Thompson’s positions will be filled.

Visiting Classrooms

Parents are reminded that if you need to speak with your child’s teacher that an appointment needs to be made at the front office as teachers cannot be interrupted during class time. Additionally, if you wish to give a message to your child during the school day, this also needs to be arranged through the front office to minimise interruptions. We ask that parents do not visit classrooms between 9:00am and 2:45pm, without prior approval through the front office.

Late Arrivals

Please support your child arriving on time: We have had a significant number of students arriving late to school and this greatly affects their learning and can interrupt the learning of others in their class.

We seek parent's support in ensuring children arrive at school on time, to best support them achieving their potential at school. I suggest parents aim for their child to be at school by 8:45 am, which allows them to be settled for the 9:00 am bell.

Kindergarten 2015

If you have a pre-school child turning 5 years old on or before 31st July 2015, they are eligible to enrol in Kindergarten for 2015.

If you haven't already done so, please collect an enrolment form from the office and return it to school ASAP.

If you are aware of neighbours or friends with eligible children, please advise them to come and introduce themselves and ask for an enrolment form and information about the school.
**Kindergarten Orientation**

We will be holding an Orientation session for parents of students who are enrolled to start Kindergarten at Blairmount next year.

This session will be held in the hall on **Tuesday 21st October from 8.45am – 11.00am** to give you some very important information about your child starting school.

During this time your child will attend a morning session and experience a range of school readiness activities with the current Kindergarten teachers.

Prior to the end of term we will post an information pack to you containing an invitation and all the relevant information for your child to start school.

Thank you,
Mrs Renee Heyburgh and Ms Karen Murray

**Students Arriving at School**

Recently we have had a number of students arriving very early at school, in some cases before 8.00am. Please be reminded that there is **NO supervision of students before 8.30am**.

**School Swimming & Water Safety Reminder**

The School Swimming and Water Safety Program for 2014 begins in **Week 3 and Week 4 of this term**.

Students that have paid will be receiving a note that will tell them what group they have been placed in and what they need to have with them for the 5 days.

The program for
* **Group 1** will begin on Monday 20th October to Friday 24th October 2014, Week 3.
* **Group 2** will begin on Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2014, Week 4.

Students need to **be at school in the hall by 8:30am** so we can mark the roll and depart at 8:45am. We look forward to the new skills students will be learning.

Miss A Minihan  
(Swimming Coordinator)

**Year 1 Excursion to Georges River Environmental Education Centre**

On **Wednesday 29th October**, Year 1 will be attending an excursion to Georges River Environmental Education Centre in Chipping Norton. Students are required to wear full school uniform, including a school hat and bring a packed lunch, recess and a water bottle in a small backpack.

We will be departing school promptly at 9.00am and travelling by bus. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time as we cannot wait for latecomers. Students will arrive back at school by 3.00pm.

The cost of this excursion is $26. Please return permission note and payment to the office no later than **Friday 24th October 2014**. Payments can now be made online by going to our school website [www.blairmount-pschools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.blairmount-pschools.nsw.edu.au) and clicking on “$ Make a Payment” then follow the prompts to make a payment using either Visa or MasterCard.

Should you have any questions regarding this excursion please do not hesitate to contact Ms Fakes at school.

**2/3L’s Go for Goal-d Stars**

I would like to congratulate the following students for achieving their Writing Goals; Neha, Clayton, Praise and Dylan. Fantastic work boys and girls keep up the great effort! Miss Lawton ☺
Evacuation and Lockdown Drills

Our school will be practicing our WHS (Work Health and Safety) drills throughout Term 4. These drills are compulsory for all schools and it will be to the benefit of all students and staff.

*It is imperative that if you are visiting our school as a parent helper, volunteer, tradesman etc. you sign on in the front office.* It is also important to read over our evacuation and lockdown procedures and if further information is required you can take an evacuation and lockdown drills pamphlet with you. All are available near our ‘visitor sign on book’.

It is also imperative to remember that if we did have to go to lockdown or evacuate our school our first two priorities are

- securing everyone who is on school premises, students, staff and visitors, by ringing the appropriate bell and
- contacting 000.

Once the police/fire brigade etc. arrives at the school they take control of the site and remain in control until the ‘threat’ is over and responsibility is handed back to the principal. Police and/or fire brigade then work with the principal to continue to manage the incident. Please note, in the event that we do have to go to lockdown or evacuation, it is highly recommended that you listen to the media reports for updates on the school rather than driving to the school.

Selective High School Applications

Entry to Government Selective High Schools for Year 7 in 2016 - Online applications open.

Applications close by 18 November 2014 for parents or carers of Year 5 students who wish their children to be considered for placement in Year 7 at a selective high school in 2016.

Parents with internet access are requested to apply online. Online applications will be available from 14 October to 17 November 2014. Application information is available on the Department’s website at: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement)

For parents without internet access a limited number of paper application forms are available in our school. Paper applications must be submitted by Friday 14 November 2014.

All students seeking Year 7 entry to a selective high school in 2016 will be required to take the Selective High School Placement Test on the morning of Thursday 12 March 2015.

Applicants may apply for a total of any four selective high schools.

P&C - Crazy Costume Mufti Day

Thursday 6th November 2014

Come dressed in your craziest costume all for a gold coin donation

Stage prizes for the craziest costume

Road safety

Key points to remember around schools

1. **Driving near school buses**
   - There is a 40km/h speed limit for traffic passing a school bus that is picking up or dropping off school children.
   - This speed limit is for all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus, whether the bus is stationary or moving.
   - The 40km/h speed limit must be obeyed when the rear red lights or amber flashing lights on the bus are flashing.
   - Backing up or stopping on these routes also alert unconsenting motorists that children are close by.
   - As a driver, remember when the lights on the bus are flashing, you must slow down to 40 km/h.
   - Never park in or near a bus stop or bus zone.
   - For information about flaps and permanent points, visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

2. **On and off the bus safety**
   - Your child is more at risk in the minute after getting off the bus. You can reduce the risk.
   - Meet your child at the bus stop or if you are picking them up, wait until the bus has been driven away before joining them to cross the road.
   - Follow the usual road crossing procedures with your children.

   - **STOP** One step back from the kerb
   - **LOOK** For traffic to your right, left and right again
   - **LISTEN** For the sounds of approaching traffic
   - **THINK** Whether it is safe to cross

   - Teach your children to keep turning their head in both directions to keep an eye on traffic as they cross the road.
   - While waiting at the bus stop, stand well away from the passing traffic. Never wait right at the kerb.
   - Remind your children that when a bus is fitted with seatbelts, they must be used.
   - Until they turn ten, hold hands with your child as you cross the road.

For more information visit
www.risksafety.transport.nsw.gov.au

NSW Transport
Centre for Road Safety
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