Dear families,

Once again we find ourselves at the end of the term and how quickly time has flown. Blairmount has been a very busy place and some of our events have included:

- Parent / Teacher ‘Meet & Greet’
- K-6 School Sport
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Bookfair
- PSSA Gala Days
- School Photos
- Parent / Teacher Interviews
- K & Yr 1 Easter Incursion
- K-2 Easter Hat Parade
- Personalised Learning Plan Meetings
- K-6 Cross Country Fun Run
- Yr 5 & 6 Peer Support Training
- Senior Rugby League Knockout
- Active After School Sport

As you can see our students have had a variety of experiences while at all times focussing on our bigger picture of moving from having compliant students to having engaged students.

The highlight over the last fortnight was our Harmony Day. It was wonderful to see our community come out in force to celebrate this event. A special mention must go to those wonderful helpers who were here at 4am in the morning to ensure our Hangi was prepared and ready to go. Please read our full Harmony Day report later in this newsletter.

Last week we also had a visit from our Director Public Schools NSW for the Campbelltown Network, Mrs Kathy Powzun. Mrs Powzun spoke with the executive and visited classrooms, she was extremely impressed with what we are doing and what she saw in action.

As this will be our last newsletter for the term, I would like to wish all families a wonderful holiday. I hope you enjoy your time together and I look forward to once again working with you in term 2.

Regards
Greg Turnbull
Principal

Important Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Last day of term 1</th>
<th>Friday 11th April 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>First day of term 2 for students</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th April 2014</td>
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Staff News

Mrs Bagley (KB) will be taking some long service leave for the first 4 weeks of term 2. While she is on leave Ms Davison will be taking KB. Should you have any questions regarding this organisation please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Murray or Mrs Heyburgh at school.

Blairmount Smartphone App

Blairmount now has it’s own Smartphone App. The App is available to download from both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. See the attached parent information sheet to download instructions.

The App will be used to further enhance the communication between the home and school and will add to what we already do with our school webpage, Facebook page and Twitter account.

Search for Blairmount Public School in
In May 2014 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 13-15 May 2014.

Tuesday 13 May
- Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)
- Writing

Wednesday 14 May
- Reading

Thursday 15 May
- Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, chance and data; and Space)

Friday 16 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.html

The Blairmount Public School 2013 Annual School Report is now available to be downloaded from the school website (http://www.blairmount-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/annual-school-report). If you do not have access to the internet copies can also be collected from the office.

I would encourage you to take the time to have a read if it. The report outlines the achievements made by the school and also the targets we are aiming for.

Students are asked not to bring these fundraisers to school. It is not appropriate for students to be carrying the money nor the chocolates both of which can be lost and stolen. Staff are not responsible for the safe keeping of these items.

Please do not send students to school with these types of fundraisers.

If your child has been using the school iPads within their class could you please send a set of headphones to school for your child to use.

Any headphones with a 3.5mm jack would be great. They do not need to be Apple products. The headphones that are brought in will be kept in a safe place and will only be used by your child.

As with all student belongings, please ensure the headphones are labelled with your child's name.

Thanks
Mrs Gawthorne
K/1M Star of the Week

For showing that learning is important to them,

The star of the week for:
Week 9 was...... "Viliami Fonua-Sinaki "
And for
Week 10 is....."Aiden Thong"

Congratulations Viliami and Aiden you should be very proud of yourselves.

2014 House Captains

Blairmount met together in their house groups last week to pick the new house captains and vice captains to lead the cheers at cross country.

Congratulations to the following students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Vice Captains</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cawley</td>
<td>Bradley Butt, Maddy Almer</td>
<td>Sebastian, Maddison, Maddy Almer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliot</td>
<td>Rachel Khouri, Ali Juboori</td>
<td>Tiarna E. Declan Hyett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser</td>
<td>Puhi Raika, Brandon Phanith</td>
<td>Tania Lata, Jack Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcombe</td>
<td>Tafa Wright, Eileen Sinaki-Teulilo</td>
<td>Daniel Tere, Katie Thompson</td>
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Congratulations again to the new house captains, we look forward to hearing your chants and cheers.

Cross Country Fun Run

Just a reminder to continue to raise as much money as you can for the cross country fun run. All money is due by 10th April 2014 and all prizes will be delivered next term. The money raised will help our Year 6 receive a graduation night at the end of the year, as we raise money for this night every year and will continue to do so for future years.

Year 6 appreciate all the support and good luck during the run.

Miss Dash

Harmony Day

On Thursday 20th March 2014, Blairmount Public School celebrated Harmony Day.

We started our day very early. Mr Alone and some very committed Blairmount dads started preparing our hangi at 4am.

At about 8:30am students started arriving in their cultural clothing. Some students dressed up in traditional clothing from Tonga, Samoa, Laos, Ireland, France and many other countries.

At 9:00am we then were entertained by many cultural performances such as a honey bee dance from some BIG group students, a haka, a cook island dance, a Japanese fan dance, professional Irish dancers, an Indian dance, 1A performed an African song and closing our performances Tafa Wright and the senior choir sang ‘I still call Australia Home’ and the National Anthem.

Some of our fantastic parents served our now very famous hangi to community members and teachers, who thoroughly enjoyed it. We were even lucky enough to have had Mrs Hopoate serving her very famous watermelon drink, otai.

Students indulged themselves in our cultural food festival and participated in many cultural activities in class.

To finish of our day of harmony some Blairmount teachers versed some year 6 students in a friendly game of cricket.

We had a fantastic day of family, food, fun and culture. We can’t wait until next year.
P&C Update

Our next P&C Meeting will be held at 6pm on Monday 7th April in the staffroom, as always all welcome.

Just a reminder that the money for the Easter Raffle is due back to school by Monday 7th April. The Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 9th April at the K-2 Easter Hat Parade.

5G’s Trophy Title Holders

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved their learning goals.

For addition and subtraction;
   Jayden, Ocarina, Eliza and Ashleigh.

For comprehension;
   Harry, Kadhim, Cameron, Lauren, Harmonie, Keira-Lee, Uru, William, Pierr, Hassan, McKayla, Tilden, Dylan, Ashleigh, Khiara, Ellie and Jayden. and Margaret.

For spelling;
   Hassan.

I am very proud of the continued effort of all students in 5G.

Mrs Gawthorne

Library News

After a busy two weeks, our first Bookfair is now over. From our sales, we were able to keep $600 worth of books for the Library, so thank you to all the children who purchased items.

Please remind your children in Years 3-6 that they are expected to finish the Premier’s Reading Challenge this year. Alyssa in 5O has already entered 17 books and only needs 3 more to finish. Well done Alyssa! There is plenty of time still left as the challenge ends mid August.

Just a reminder that all children should be borrowing and returning their books in a waterproof library bag. Some children are just using a cloth bag, which is not waterproof. If you have any spare plastic shopping bags at home that you do not need, please send them to the library.

Mrs C. Burden
Teacher/Librarian

Science in KS

Over the term students in KS have been investigating different materials that we use in everyday life. As a class we investigated the strength of different materials and the effects weather can have on these materials. After a lot of investigating and detective work the students in KS began their inquiry project of designing and building a strong house for the Little Pigs to live in. The students have worked really hard and have had a lot of fun creating their own houses. I am really proud of all their hard work. Below are some photos showing all the fun we had.
Uniform Shop News

Thankyou to all the parents who have purchased the new school sports uniform. The students really do look fantastic each Friday.

Unfortunately from the beginning of term 2 the price for the sports uniform (shirt and shorts as a set) will increase to $40. You can still purchase the sports uniform at the discounted price of $30 until the end of term 1.

The uniform shop can be accessed from the side entrance to the administration block near the Badgally Road entrance to the school.

MathSMAD in 2C

Students in 2C have been learning to mentally add combinations of numbers together. They have been developing their ability to visualise the dots on a dice to help when adding numbers together. They have also been learning to look for friends of 10, doubles and near doubles when mentally adding a range of numbers together. The students worked with a friend and then shared what they were learning with the class.

Happy Birthday

Ready, Set, School Program

The Ready, Set, School program is a transition program for all children beginning Kindergarten in 2015. 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 7th May, the program will take place each Wednesday & Thursday 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 two 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.

This year we will be running 2 classes each term. Term 4 is already filling fast. Places are still available for next term. To ensure your child’s place in the program or if you have any questions, please contact Penny Golledge on 4626 1795.

Campbelltown Mini Legends

In week 9, Blairmount entered a senior team in the Campbelltown Mini Legends Rugby League competition. This event, organised by the NRL, is designed to allow new and existing players to experience the game in a modified version of Sevens.

Blairmount was placed in a very strong pool of local schools that comprised teams from: John Warby, Ingleburn, Sarah Redfern and Thomas Acres. Our senior team was undefeated after three games and faced a must win game against Sarah Redfern to advance to the next round.

Playing a disciplined and exciting style of Rugby League saw Blairmount defeat Sarah Redfern and advance to a Semi-Final game against a team from St John the Evangelist. Blairmount’s commitment and teamwork resulted in a victory in the Semi Finals and progress to the Regional Finals. This event will be held on 19th June at Campbelltown Stadium, where Blairmount will play other region winners from Group 6, Southern Highlands & Liverpool.

Blairmount players (left to right) – Deacon Fox, Akram Khan, Saymon Sengal, William Fei, Ryan Schultz, Sio Tupou, Iosefa Faleali’i
P&C “EASTER RAFFLE & CAKE STALL”

Wednesday 9th April 2014

RAFFLE TICKETS $1 EACH
(tickets & moneys due Monday 7th April)

**Hampers will be drawn during the k-2 Easter Hat Parade**

CAKE STALL WILL BE HELD AT 11am

**Every family is asked to please donate a cake for the stall**

Claymore

CHILD & FAMILY

CONNECT

Healthy BODY

HEALTHY MIND

Activities include:
Healthy Cooking/Eating
Guest Chef’s
Exercise/Fitness
Excursions

WHEN: Every Monday (school term only)
Terms 1 & 2
Starting Monday, 17th of February

TIME: 10:00am to 2:00pm

LOCATION: Gumnut Cottage
Cnr Gould & Dobell Rds, Claymore

If you would like to know more about this event please contact Edward on 0499 101 519 or Jodi on 0410 222 175

Mud Fun Claymore

Muddy good fun for children 8 - 12 years
PLAY, CREATE, EXPERIMENT
with mud, glorious mud

WHEN: Every Monday & Wednesday, Terms 1 & 2
Starting Monday 24th February

TIME: 3:00pm to 5:30pm

LOCATION: Gumnut Cottage
Cnr Gould & Dobell Rds, Claymore

If you would like to know more about this event please contact Edward on 0499 101 519 or Jodi on 0410 222 175

Mud Fun is funded under
Communities for Children, an initiative of the
Australian Government, Dept. of Social Services
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smartphones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

### How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the “App Store” icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “Free” then “Install”.
4. If iPad, change the drop list to “iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “Free” then “install”.
5. When installed click “Open”
6. Select “OK” to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the “Play Store” button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the “Install” button.
5. Click “Accept!” for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click “Open” when installed.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! [Like]

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
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<td>27 January Public Holiday</td>
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<td>29 Students Yr 1-6 Return</td>
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<td>4 February P&amp;C Meeting 6pm</td>
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<td>10 Parent / Teacher 'Meet &amp; Greet' 3.15pm</td>
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<td>12 P&amp;C Mufti Day Gold Coin Donation</td>
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<td>28 Assembly</td>
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<td>3 March P&amp;C Meeting 6pm</td>
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<td>14 Assembly</td>
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<td>20 Harmony Day</td>
<td>21 PSSA Gala Day</td>
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<td>27 Year 5 Tree Planting West Hoxton</td>
<td>28 Assembly</td>
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<td>1 April</td>
<td>2 Parent / Teacher Interviews 3-6pm</td>
<td>3 Parent / Teacher Interviews 3-6pm</td>
<td>4 PSSA Gala Day Easter Bilby Incursion</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>7 Stage 3 Public Speaking Final P&amp;C Meeting 6pm</td>
<td>8 Stage 2 Public Speaking Final</td>
<td>9 Easter Hat Parade K-2 P&amp;C Cake Stall and Raffle</td>
<td>19 Easter Bilby Incursion</td>
<td>11 Cross Country Fun Run K-6 Last Day Term 1</td>
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<td>28 April</td>
<td>29 Students Return</td>
<td>30 ANZAC Assembly 10.20am</td>
<td>1 May Peer Support</td>
<td>2 Assembly 5O</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>12 NAPLAN (Years 3 &amp; 5)</td>
<td>13 NAPLAN (Years 3 &amp; 5)</td>
<td>14 NAPLAN (Years 3 &amp; 5)</td>
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<td>16 Assembly 4J</td>
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<td>19 Stage 2 Excursion Symbio Wildlife Park</td>
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<td>22 Peer Support</td>
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<td>5 Peer Support</td>
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<td>9 PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>12 Peer Support</td>
<td>13 PSSA Gala Day</td>
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<td>19 Peer Support</td>
<td>20 Assembly 2/3L</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>23 June Reports Go Home</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>27 Assembly 6O</td>
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<td>Last Day Term 2</td>
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