Dear Families,

It was great to see so many families at our ‘Meet The Teacher’ afternoon. We really value all our parental support and look forward to our continued partnership throughout the year.

Thank you also to the many parents and carers that came to our very first ‘Beverages and Bikkies’ morning. These mornings will be held 2-3 times per term and provide an opportunity for staff and parents to meet and chat about school events in a casual and informal setting.

The Kindergarten classes KR, KM and KD have settled in quickly and are already engaged in learning like experienced ‘big school’ kids.

Congratulations to their teachers Mrs Ryan, Mrs McGaughey and Ms Davison 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 labelled. 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!

Regards
Greg Turnbull
Principal

Harmony Day Parent Performances

Harmony Day 2015 (Thursday 19th March) will as it always has allow us to unite our community in the celebration of different traditions and cultures. This is a special day for us all to embrace the many things that make us special and to share those things we have in common.

This year we would like to expand on the variety of performances we offer for our students to view. We would love to have more parent performances showcasing a variety of traditions and cultures within our community.

I really encourage parents to be creative, collaborate and share your talents and skills with the Blairmount community. If you have an idea and would like to have a performance in this years Harmony Day Celebrations please do not hesitate to call me on 46261795.

Kind Regards
Mrs Melissa Clarke

Year 7 2016 – Expression of Interest High School forms

All of our Year 6 parents were given a Year 7 expression of interest form earlier this week. This is the first step to ensure that we secure a high school placement for your child in 2016. It is important that this form is returned to your child’s class teacher before 20th March 2015.

If you have any questions or need assistance to complete it, please contact Mrs Sammut before this date.
Campbelltown Performing Arts gifted and talented workshops

Campbelltown Performing Arts High School is running a series of gifted and talented performing arts workshops for students in years 4, 5 and 6. The workshops are aimed at students who have a keen interest and some experience in one of the areas offered - Dance, Drama, Music Vocal, Music Instrumental and Circus Arts. The workshops are a fun and interactive way for students to build their skills in these areas, building confidence, socialisation and performance skills. Each workshop runs on separate days as follows:

- Circus Arts – Monday, 23 February 2015 from 9.30am to 2.30pm
- Drama – Tuesday, 24 February 2015 from 9.30am to 3.00pm
- Dance – Tuesday, 24 February 2015 from 9.30am to 3.00pm
- Music Vocal – Wednesday, 25 February 2015 from 9.30am to 2.30pm
- Music Instrumental – Wednesday, 25 February 2015 from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Experience is preferred in the areas of contemporary dance, vocal and instrumental to attend these workshops, but not essential for circus arts. Those students who enjoy public speaking and debating, or who have a natural talent for performing would be suitable to attend the drama workshop. It costs $15 to attend each workshop.

Any enquiries can be directed to the Performing Arts faculty via Sara Seton or Catherine Sanders on 02 4625 1403.

If you would like to make a booking you can contact the high school directly or via the following link: http://www.trybooking.com/Event/EventListingURL.aspx?aid=543. Spaces are limited.

Clean Up Australia Day

Blairmount Public School will be participating in the ‘School’s Clean Up Australia Day’ on Friday February the 27th. 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 disposable gloves and be closely monitored by supervising teachers. If you would like your child to wear sturdier gloves please send them to school with your child on the day.

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

2015 School Photos

Our School photos will be taken on Tuesday 24th March this year.

As in previous years envelopes will come home closer to the date, NO money is to come to school before photo day.

Money is given directly to the photographer.

S. Jones

Road Safety

It has been brought to our attention that some families are not using the supervised crossing to cross Badgally Road to come to school.

The Roads & Maritime Services provide a crossing supervisor on Badgally Road to ensure the safety of students arriving and leaving school.

Please talk with your children and emphasise the importance of using the crossing on Badgally Road when arriving or leaving the school.
Ready, Set, School Program

The Ready, Set, School program is a transition program for all children beginning Kindergarten in 2016. 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.

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 transition program will begin in term 2.

To ensure your child’s place in the program or if you have any questions, please contact Penny Golledge on 4626 1795.

School Bus

The Busabout bus fare has increased to $1.20 for students who live too close to school to have a bus pass. Please ensure your child has enough money as if they don’t they won’t be able to board the bus.

Thanks

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.

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

Like us on Facebook

To keep up to date with everything that goes on at our school please visit and like us at our official Blairmount Facebook page, it can be found at www.facebook.com/blairmountps
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Laterness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principal may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 535

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

© February 2015
NSW Department of Education and Communities
Blairmount Public School would like to thank

BCF

BOATING - CAMPING - FISHING

Campbelltown

21 Blaxland Road
Campbelltown, NSW 2560
Ph: (02) 4620 4855

For their wonderful support of our school
Blairmount P&C

Hot Dog Day
(In Conjunction with the School Easter Hat Parade)

Dear School Parents,

On Thursday 2nd April 2015, the P&C will be selling Hot dogs & Drinks in conjunction with the School’s Easter Hat Parade. This would be a great opportunity for parents and children to share a lunch time meal together, while raising money for Blairmount Public School. Participation in purchasing Hot dogs and Drinks is entirely voluntary.

An Easter Raffle by the Blairmount P&C will be drawn during the Easter Hat Parade. Tickets will be sent home with the eldest child in each family early March. Monies and tickets for the Easter raffle are due back on Monday 30th March, 2015. Additional tickets will be available from the front office and tickets may also be purchased on the day.

**HOT DOGS AND DRINKS ARE TO BE PRE-PURCHASED!**

In order to streamline the running of Hot Dog & Drink orders on the day, the reply slip below needs to be completed and returned with your order & monies. (Tokens will be handed out to each child on the day e.g. 1 token per order).

**What do you need to do before the day?**
Please return the attached slip, along with all monies addressed to: P&C Hot Dog Day, to the front office by Monday 30th March, 2015 (This will give us time to purchase hot dogs & drinks ready for the day).

**Picking up order on the day – Thursday 2nd April, 2015**
A token is to be exchanged for each hot dog/drink order.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO HOT DOGS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON THE DAY**

---

**RSVP RETURN SLIP – P&C Hot Dog Day**
Please return this slip & monies by Monday 30th March 2015

Child’s name: __________________________ Class: ______

*Please indicate quantity per order:*

[ ] x $4.00 (Hot dog & popper)
[ ] x $2.50 (Hot dog only)
All orders include extras: Tomato/BBQ sauce

Total orders: ______  Total Monies paid: ______
<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>26 January</td>
<td>Staff Return</td>
<td>Students Yr 1-6 Return</td>
<td>Kindergarten Begins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 6pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSSA Gala Day Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parent / Teacher 'Meet &amp; Greet' 3.15pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>P&amp;C Valentine's Mufti Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parent / Teacher 'Meet &amp; Greet' 3.15pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Schools Clean Up Australia Day</td>
<td>Assembly – School Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Beverages &amp; Bikkie&quot; 8.30 – 8.55am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSSA Gala Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assembly – 5/6C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSSA Gala Day</td>
<td>Assembly – 4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K-6 School Fun Run</td>
<td>Parent / Teacher Interviews 3-6pm</td>
<td>Parent / Teacher Interviews 3-6pm</td>
<td>K-2 Easter Hat Parade P&amp;C Hot Dog Day</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>