Dear Families,

This week I have a number of reminders for everyone in our community to ensure the safety of all our students and staff.

Firstly we are asking all parents and carers to collect your children from the designated class pick up points outside the building. It is extremely disruptive to teachers and students to have people inside the building in front of classrooms. Of course in wet weather children are collected from inside the building.

Secondly we would like to remind all parents and carers that if you need to see children during the school day, you must come to the office and sign in as a visitor and collect a visitor tag before proceeding to classrooms. If you are not wearing a visitor tag you will be asked to return to the office before speaking with children. This is simply to ensure we know who is on the school site at all times to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Finally we would encourage everyone to return the 2015 student information cards and permission to publish notes to classes as soon as possible.

Thank you to everyone for your understanding and support with these matters.

Regards
Greg Turnbull
Principal

Mrs Murray will begin her new position next Monday (9th March 2015). In her place I would like to welcome Miss Palmer to 1T and Blairmount PS.

Attendance Changes
This year there have been some major changes and increased expectations in regards to attendance. The main changes are as follows:

- All absences must be explained within 7 days – schools are required to seek a satisfactory explanation after this.
- Late arrivals and early leavers will be marked as a partial absence. Students arriving after 9.10am will be marked as partially absent.
- *Exemptions for family holidays or family business are no longer available. Exemptions can still be given for medical reasons. (This includes partial absence).*

Please note attendance at school for improved learning and social skills is absolutely vital. For more information refer to the attached Attendance information sheet.

Zone Swimming Carnival
We had 3 students qualify for the Zone Swimming Carnival which will be held on Tuesday 10th March. Andrew L, Anthony L and Tilden B. All students that attended the 2015 time trials put in 100% and are congratulated on a job well done.

We wish Andrew, Anthony and Tilden the best of luck next week. I am sure they will represent our school to the best of their ability.

GOOD LUCK!
Newspaper Wanted
You may have noticed the school is in the process of revamping the school library. One of the things we really need for a display in the library are newspapers. We ask all of our families to please hold on to any old newspapers and to send them to the front office. We really appreciate your continued support.

Melissa Clarke

PSSA Gala Day
Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first Gala Day for the year is this Friday the 6th of March. The Summer Gala Day sports for this term are:
- Softball (Milton Park, Macquarie Fields)
- Tee Ball (Ambarvale Playing Fields)
- Oz Tag/Touch (Rosemeadow Playing Fields)
- Cricket (Eschol Park Playing Fields)

Good luck to all the students competing and I am sure that you will all represent the school well. Make sure that you have your hats and bottles of water on the day!

Regards,
Mr S. Pereira

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.

The Eco Group – Apple Slinkies Fundraiser
The Eco group will be making and selling apple slinkies Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week. They will be 50c – bring your own apple or buy one from the canteen. We are fundraising to raise money for a new garden shed to put our garden tools in.

Harmony Day 2015
Harmony Day is a day where all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The message for Harmony Day in 2015 is: HARMONY DAY – EVERYDAY. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Blairmount Public School’s Celebration for Harmony Day
Date: Thursday 19th March 2015
9:10 am

Harmony Day preparations are underway at Blairmount.

Evacuation and Lockdown Drill
It is that time of year again where we need to practise our evacuation and lockdown procedures, so we will have a whole school practice, next week. You may wish to reassure your child about how these drills are nothing to be alarmed about and how practises like these will make ‘the real thing’ much easier if ever needed. Teachers in class will also do this prior to the drill.
MathSMAD in Kindergarten

Just a reminder to our Kindergarten parents if they would like to see more photos of their children engaging in classroom activities they can visit the Blog.

For further information regarding access to the Blog please contact either Mrs Heyburgh or Mrs McGaughey.

Courage to Care Excursion

Our Stage 3 students are booked in to attend the Courage to Care exhibition at Liverpool City Library. The Courage to Care exhibition aims to highlight the problems of bullying, racism and discrimination and promote understanding and acceptance of all people in our multicultural society.

On Wednesday 25th March, students in 6H and 6J will be attending. On Thursday 2nd April, 5/6C, 5E and Year 5 students in 4/5A will be attending. The permission note and the $3 are due to the front office before Friday 20th March. Permission notes were sent home last week, but if you need another one please contact the front office.

Mrs Sammut

ICAS Assessments

Students in Years 3-6 are invited to participate in the 2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools. The competitions are conducted each year by Educational Assessment Australia, an organisation of the University of NSW.

The following competitions are available to 3-6 students, along with the sitting dates for each, in 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday 19th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(computer skills)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday 3rd June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 15th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 16th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 28th July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 11th August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Year 2 students are also invited to participate in the Science, English and Mathematics assessments on these days. There are some spare notes at the front office if you wish your child in Years 2-6 to participate.

If you would like to download some practice papers, please go to this website:


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
Year 1 Vision Testing

Next week year 1 students will have the opportunity to have their Vision tested for free. A vision screening will be performed at school by Eyecare Plus Optometrist. A report will be sent home up to a week after the screening to inform parents of the results. If you have not yet returned your permission note please do so by Monday 9th March.

If you have any questions please contact Penny Golledge on 4626 1795

Eating Healthy at School

Teaching kids positive eating behaviours during childhood can set them up with healthy eating habits for life. It is extremely important that children are sent to school with a healthy lunch as this will help to re-energise their bodies and help them to focus and concentrate during the next session. Whilst it is good practice to have the children pack their own lunch it is still very important that parents talk to them about what they are packing & to make sure it goes into their school bag. If a child comes to school without lunch we will contact the parents and ask them to bring their lunch up to school.

If you would like any further information on healthy lunches please don’t hesitate to contact Penny Golledge 4626 1795.

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.

Online Fundraising Tips

Online fundraising is fun, effective and easy. Within minutes, you can build your own personal fundraising page and share it with friends and family all over the world!

You can do all this from your computer without having to get out of your chair. There are no forms to fill in, no money to collect, and no hassles. It's the most of your fundraising efforts, we have compiled a few tips we have learned through experience.

Top 5 Online Fundraising Tips

1. Make your fundraising page your own

To make your fundraising page as effective as possible try to tell a story. Explain why you are trying to raise money, the specific case the money can be put to, and why you are personally moved to support your school. Personalise your page!

2. Don’t set your target too low

You may be surprised by how deep your supporters will dig to help you get across the line to reach your fundraising goal. Raise as much as you possibly can for your chosen cause by trying to set an ambitious but achievable target.

3. Email your close friends and family first

Send an email to close friends and family and those you think are likely to be your most generous supporters first, before asking others to donate. People tend to match the amounts already donated, so target your most generous supporters first.

4. Don’t just use the ‘Share your fundraising page’ facility to share your link

Let as many people as possible know you’re fundraising! Copy and paste your personal fundraising URL from your page and ask your parents to share it via their own email network, social network and text messaging.

5. Update your ‘fundraising page’ and email your supporters again

People means to donate, but sometimes it gets pushed to the bottom of the inbox and they forget. It usually takes more than one round of emails to nudge everyone into action, so don’t feel embarrassed about asking people again.

To update your fundraising page, log into your account by entering your username and password (which you set when you set up your page). Tell everyone how fit (or otherwise) you are feeling and how much money you’ve raised so far. Then re-send the link to your updated page by email.
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

Lateness 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.

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.
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 PUBLIC SCHOOL
P&C ASSOCIATION

Mother’s Day Stall

Children need to pre-order & pay for Blairmount Money before Friday 24th April 2015.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On **Wednesday 6th May 2015**, the P&C will be running their annual Mother’s 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.

For this year’s Mother’s Day Stall gifts will range in price from $1, $2, $3, $5 and $10.

This year’s **PRE-PURCHASED** stall will provide your child with the opportunity to purchase more than one gift if they so choose. There is **NO LIMIT** to the number of gifts that can be purchased providing they have purchased Blairstown Money PRIOR to the day.

A limited amount of gifts will be purchased and children who have pre-ordered and paid for Blairstown 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 lunchtime.

In order to streamline the running of the stall, the reply slip needs to be completed and returned with your order. (Blairstown Money will be handed out to children on the day of the stall. $1 = 1 Blairstown 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 24th April 2015. NO MONIES WILL BE RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE.**

**CHILDREN WILL BE PURCHASING GIFTS – WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY 2015**

RETURN SLIP – MOTHER’S DAY STALL
Return this slip and monies by **Friday 24th April 2015**

Child’s Name: ________________________________ Class: ____________________

Amount of money enclosed: $____________________________
Claymore

Kids Study Time

Supporting kids aged 6 to 12 with homework, reading and school projects

Please ring Claymore Community Centre on 4626 2007 to book a place for your child

Day: Tuesday (during term)
Time: 3.00pm-4.30pm
Where: Claymore Community Centre
Cnr Dobell and Gould Roads, Claymore

Students' homework achievements are recognised through a celebration at the end of each term.
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 Blairstown Public School. Participation in purchasing Hot dogs and Drinks is entirely voluntary.

An **Easter Raffle** by the Blairstown 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>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>Staff Return</td>
<td>Students Yr 1-6 Return</td>
<td>Kindergarten Begins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 6pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSSA Gala Day Trials</td>
<td></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></td>
<td>P&amp;C Valentine’s Mufti Day</td>
<td></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>Parent / Teacher ‘Meet &amp; Greet’ 3.15pm</td>
<td></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>Schools Clean Up Australia Day</td>
<td>Assembly - School Leaders</td>
<td></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>‘Beverages &amp; Bikkie’ 6.30 – 6.55pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSSA Gala Day</td>
<td></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>Year 1 Sight Testing</td>
<td>Year 1 Sight Testing</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>Harmony Day</td>
<td>PSSA Gala 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>Fun Run Money Due</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>Year 2 Excursion 6H &amp; 6J Excursion</td>
<td></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 9-6pm</td>
<td>Parent / Teacher Interviews 9-6pm</td>
<td>K-2 Easter Hat Parade 5/6C, 6E &amp; 45A Excursion</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P&amp;C Hot Dog Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>