Dear Families,

This week, as part of our PBL initiative every student (except those BC56 – yours are on their way) was provided with a school hat and it was fantastic to go into the playground and see everyone in the same uniform: the school looked amazing!!

These hats are to be kept at school and are expected to be worn each day in the playground, on excursions, for sport including GALA days and any other school activity.

School Student Numbers

At the moment our classes are very full. Mrs Clarke and I have been monitoring the numbers closely and currently we are only one student away from forming another class.

Should this happen and we have to form a 21st class, the positive would be that all classes would be smaller in size, and the negative would be that it would require restructuring the entire school K-6 and some students would end up in a new class with a different teacher.

Mrs Clarke and I will continue to monitor the numbers closely and inform you immediately should changes have to be made.

Zone Swimming Carnival

We had 3 students qualify for the zone swimming carnival which will be held on Tuesday 8th March. Andrew Liddle, Anthony Liddle and Seth Too. All students that attended the 2016 time trials put in 100% and are congratulated on a job well done.

We wish Andrew, Anthony and Seth the best of luck next week and will represent our school to the best of their ability.

GOOD LUCK!

Regards
Greg Turnbull
Principal
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school. I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey have been sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 18th March 2016. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Arriving Late at School

Unfortunately, we have a significant number of students arriving late to school each day. This not only affects the education of the students running late as they are missing vital parts of the school day it can also be disruptive for the class they are entering.

If you are signing your children in late we request that you do not follow your children to class. It is disruptive for staff and students if parents are still hovering around classrooms in the morning once class time has started. We thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

Year 7 2016 – Expression of Interest High School forms

All of our Year 6 students will be given a Year 7 expression of interest form earlier next week. This is the first step to ensure that we secure a high school placement for your child in 2017. It is important that this form is returned to your child’s class teacher before 18th March 2016.

If you have any questions or need assistance to complete it, please contact Mrs Gibbs before this date.

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](http://www.facebook.com/blairmountps)

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...
ICAS Assessments

Students in Years 3-6 are invited to participate in the 2016 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 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday 17th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>(computer skills)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Tuesday 31st May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 13th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Wednesday 15th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 2nd August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 16th August</td>
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Our Year 2 students are also invited to participate in the Science, Spelling, English and Mathematics assessments on these days. There are spare notes at the front office if you wish your child in Years 2-6 to participate.

If you any questions or would like further information please contact Mrs Gibbs.

2016 School Photos

Our School photos will be taken on Tuesday 22nd 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.

QuickSmart at BPS

At BPS we are very lucky to have access to the QuickSmart Maths program for Year 4. QuickSmart uses strategies aimed at developing fluent and efficient basic maths skills. It provides intensive support to help students who have problems with learning basic number facts get ‘up to speed’ with basic skills such as recall of number facts and problem solving.

QuickSmart encourages students to become ‘Quick’ in their response speed and ‘Smart’ in their strategy use when learning the basic skills required in numeracy. It focuses on the role of automaticity in developing students understanding and quick recall of basic academic facts. Becoming faster and more confident in understanding and recalling basic mathematics facts can mean that students have more time, energy and attention available for tackling more challenging maths problems.

Students who are selected for QuickSmart are withdrawn from class in pairs for a 30 minute session 3 times a week for 30 weeks. A QuickSmart session consists of 6 x 5 minute components including: Revision, Flash Cards, Speed Sheets, Computer work, Work Sheets and Maths Games. Keep an eye out in future Newsletters for updates and news about QuickSmart at BPS in 2016.

Thanks
Margie Brennan
BPS School Learning Support Officer

Trivia Night

Parents/Caregivers and your friends and family are invited to a Trivia Night to support/sponsor Ms Susan Fakes in The World’s Greatest Shave for The Leukemia Foundation.

It will be held at Blairmount Public School on Thursday 31st March 2016 commencing at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets will be a donation of $10 per person with up to 6 adults per table. Bring your own food/nibbles and non-alcoholic drink. Looking forward to a fun night with lots of raffles, as well.

The tickets will be available as soon as possible – to be notified in the next newsletter.

Organised by Campbelltown City Lions Club

Library News

Great news! The bookfair is here. There are hundreds of great books, posters and stationery items. Parents are welcome to browse before school from 8.30a.m. Students can start buying now before school and at lunch. The bookfair will be here for 2 weeks.

Mrs C. Burden
Teacher Librarian
PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS...

ARE YOU INVOLVED IN CULTURAL SINGING OR DANCING?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PERFORM AT OUR 2016 HARMONY DAY CELEBRATION?

🎶 PLEASE SEE MISS TAMARA POLLOCK OR CALL 4626 1795

PLEASE CONTACT BEFORE WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH

EAGLE VALE HIGH SCHOOL

Open Night ~ Years 4, 5 & 6
March 14, 2016 ~ 6-7pm
quality education at your local school

Join us for:
* BBQ Sausage Sizzle
* Principal's Address 6:00pm
* School Leadership Team address
* School Tour and Open Night from 6:15pm
* Supper in the school cafe from 7:00pm
Please RSVP by calling the School Administration on 46265088 by 10/3/16
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<tr>
<th>WK</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25 January School Holidays</td>
<td>26 Public Holiday</td>
<td>27 Staff Return</td>
<td>28 Students Return</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1 February</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 PSSA Gala Day Trials</td>
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<td>16 Parent / Teacher 'Meet &amp; Greet' 3.15pm</td>
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<td>25 Parent TAFE course 9am – 1pm</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>1 March</td>
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<td>3 Parent TAFE course 9am – 1pm</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>8 Crazy Hair Day Worlds Greatest Shave (Ms Fakes) P&amp;C Meeting 6pm</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11 PSSA Gala Day</td>
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<td>17 Parent TAFE course 9am – 1pm</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>23 Stage 3 Excursion Easter Show</td>
<td>24 Easter Hat Parade (K-2 Only)</td>
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<td>28 Easter Monday</td>
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<td>31 Parent TAFE course 9am – 1pm</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>4 P&amp;C Meeting 6pm</td>
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<td>6 Harmony Day</td>
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