Dear Students and Parents

We all want our children to succeed, as a parent and Principal, I certainly value the critical role of parental involvement in a child's education which has been examined in countless studies and reports. The research overwhelmingly supports the following conclusions;

#1 - Parental involvement enhances academic performance. Academic achievement increases when parents are involved in their children's education. The more intensively involved the parents are, the greater the positive impact on academic achievement.

#2 - Parental involvement leads to better classroom behaviour. Parental involvement not only enhances academic performance, but it also has a positive influence on student attitude and behaviour. A parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can affect the child's attitude toward school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, absenteeism, and motivation.

#3 - Parents should stay involved in their children's education from preschool through high school. Parental involvement can make a positive difference at all age levels. Parental involvement tends to be the greatest with young children and tends to taper off as children get older. Studies have shown, however, that involvement of parents of middle and high school students is equally important.

Joining the P&C is one of the best ways to show your children how much you value their education and how interested you are in what they do. By joining the P&C, you are showing your children how committed you are to helping students and your school community. Monday 14 March, 2016 is the AGM for the P&C association, this is a fantastic opportunity for parents to become involved in the school. Each meeting is an opportunity to discuss and contribute to the management and improvement of the school.

As a P&C member, you can contribute opinions on:
- positive school-wide behaviours
- student dress code
- school routines
- P&C budget
- school budget

Actions always speak louder than words when it comes to valuing your child's learning. I hope to see new as well as old faces on Monday afternoon.

Over the next two weeks students need to be working hard completing units of work. I remind students and parents that success comes from organised, planned opportunities to complete tasks. The time management principles that underlay this involve prioritising and the relentless persistence and determination to achieve these priorities. Academic success needs to be a priority for every student to achieve their personal best. Parents can support this by helping their child prioritise and model the process of achieving priorities. Assisting your child to reduce distraction from their study environment, and increase the time dedicated to school work and consolidation of daily learning and assessment tasks are simple ways that this can be achieved.

This term I have been fortunate to spend time in every teacher's classroom. I have witnessed the excellent work of the classroom teachers in this school. Here, where the learning of our students is continually evolving and developing, we have a classroom leader of curriculum, learning and social development. This dynamic role takes great skill and an enormous level of commitment and time. In the classroom visits I have conducted, I have been inspired, motivated and taken on some highly engaging learning journeys and it is important to take the time to acknowledge the great work of our classroom leaders in this school. I look forward to our next newsletter and hope you are filled with as much pride as I am in celebrating the success of our school.

Linda Galloway
Principal
Behaviour Focus Weeks 6 & 7
The behaviour focus in Week 6 was wearing the correct uniform. Students were reminded of the correct uniform including jewellery and make-up allowed. Particularly, for make-up, students are only permitted to wear light foundation and have clear nail polish. Also, please remember that only natural hair colours are permitted.

Week 7's behaviour focus is moving promptly to class. Students need to ensure they have filled their water bottle, gone to the toilet and collected any necessary equipment from their lockers prior to the bell sounding at the end of lunch. At this point, they should pick up their bag and any remaining rubbish and move directly to class.

Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews
As this is a short term, report cards will be handed out to students in Week 1 next term. In Term 1, the reports are an interim report to show progress so far and will not contain comments. Shortly afterwards, we will be holding our Parent Teacher Interviews where you can meet with your child’s teachers to get more detailed feedback.

School Photos
The annual school photos were taken on Tuesday. Thank you for ensuring your student was in their full day uniform on the day. Printing will take about a month so the photos should be available early next term. If you did not pay for the photos, you can still order online through the MSP website at www.msp.com.au.

Rebecca Godfrey, Deputy Principal

Attendance

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<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Year 12</th>
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<td>88.6%</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
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Year 10-12 need to return their work experience forms as soon as possible to Mrs Beak or Mrs Chadwick-Lyall. Work experience is able to be done during the holidays or the first week of next term. All year 12’s who have not completed two weeks of work experience should be handing in a form as it is a requirement of our Cert 2 Workplace Practices course to have done 80 hours of work experience.

Year 12 Formal Fundraising – Ipad raffle
The draw date for this raffle has been extended until Monday 14th March due to tickets/money being outstanding. Please ensure students return their tickets/money by Monday.

Co-Curricular Activities
Congratulations to the following students who attended the CH trials for Touch Football this week and were successful in being selected in the CH teams.
Year 12 - Fynn Collins, Tasma Vesey, Year 10 – Bailey Jones, Year 7 – Delaney Window

Community Participation
Congratulations also to three of our senior students who were selected in the Central Highlands Rugby League team.
Year 11 – Jaden Parsons, Joshua Mathewson and Jackson Scarafilo

Gap Year Program
Defence Force: Gap Year
Applications have now opened for the 2017 Gap year with the Defence Force.
It is a 12 months program where participants complete basic training, including physical training, weapon handling, first aid and field craft. Students are able to register their interest online at: http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/GapYear/ to receive future updates.

Julie Beak, HOD Senior Secondary
High School Harmonies

With Term 1 hitting its peak, we have conjured a plan to allow students to sing their stress away! The High School Harmonies are the new, improved and brilliant vocal talent in our Junior Secondary ranks.

Making their debut at the school’s investiture our group sung the National Anthem with pride. Moving on from this we are currently rehearsing modern pop tunes, which students are thoroughly immersed in. We are setting our sights on a repertoire of personalised tunes in preparation for up and coming events. Any students interested we meet weekly on Tuesday and Wednesday, second lunch in D07.

Mr Paul Stephenson
Miss Laura Bowen

STUDENT SERVICES

At Blackwater High, students have been enjoying Friday lunch and kitchen garden activities.
Sustainable Ecosystems

The senior biology classes are currently studying ecology which is defined as the study of how living organisms interact with their physical environment. Within this unit of ecology they are focusing on the sustainability of different environments, and as part of their assessment, last Friday students visited the Bedford Weir to collect data on the sustainability of the Mackenzie River. Each group had a different focus question to answer, whether it was focusing on physical factors such as salt concentration and pH or biological factors such as the number of invasive to native species. Students now have the task to analysis their data and conclude whether the Mackenzie River is in fact sustainable into the future.

Georgia Wignall, Science Coordinator

Indigenous News

Two weeks ago our senior Indigenous students in Years 10, 11 and 12 participated in the Core of Life program, which is a culturally safe reproductive health and parenting program designed to assist young people pre-conceptually (before pregnancy) as well as young parents, to feel more empowered when making important life choices about health and wellbeing and the journey to becoming a parent. Fredricka from QLD Health and school nurse Suzanne Russell facilitated the program.

The student’s got the opportunity to role play scenarios about healthy and unhealthy pregnancies, as well as being a midwife/nurse and being parents and partners. They dressed up in character and really had a lot of fun playing their part. It was good to see students being involved and asking many questions.

We had two special guests on the day, Chris Conway and Angus Row Row. They shared their stories and experiences with the students about being a father. It was really great to have good strong Indigenous male role models for the students to look up to.

At the end of the day each student received a certificate of participation and an information pack about sexual health to take home along with some other goodies.

Beth Dyer, Community Education Counsellor
The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in the previous year. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate.

Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2016.

Further information on Next Step is available online at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or on toll free telephone 1800 068 587.

Missing School is Missing Out

Check the attendance information printed on your child’s report card. Potential employers will look at school attendance as an indicator of whether people will turn up regularly to work.

BLACKWATER STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Schools Officer /Grounds
Permanent Full time Position

The School officer’s role is to contribute to the effective operations and maintenance of the school by providing a high level of facilities and grounds care and perform a range of tasks as directed to support the Principal and Business Services Manager in the safe operations of the school. Application Packs are available at the school office. Applications and resumes can be dropped to the school or forwarded to the Principal, Blackwater State High School, PO Box 148, Blackwater, 4717 or emailed to principal@blackwatershs.eq.edu.au Clos ing date is 15 March 2016.

Applicants will remain current for 12 months.
And must qualify for a Blue Card
Websites - http://www.blackwatershs.eq.edu.au

Free Tutoring

English
Monday afternoons in the Library
3.15pm - 4.00pm

Maths
Thursday afternoons in the Library
3.15pm - 4.00pm

Balanced Beauty
Creative Workshop for young women ages 12-15
Be Educated
Stress, Depression & Mental Health
Be Creative
Yoga, Art, Craft & DIY
Be inspired!
Build Self-Esteem, Confidence and Self Belief
To book phone: 1300 523 985
When: March 29 - April 1
Time: 10am - 12pm
Venue: PCYC Blackwater
RSVP: March 22 Cost: FREE
PRINCIPAL
Mrs Linda Galloway

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Mrs Rebecca Godfrey

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNSELLOR
Ms Beth Dyer (49869501)

GUIDANCE OFFICER
Ms Lena Lehmann (49869516)

TUCKSHOP CONVENOR
Melissa Barnes (49869521)

SCHOOL CAPTAINS
Senior School Captains
Mandy-Jo Morris & Matthew Wood
Junior School Captains
Mikaela Bannan & Jaxx Ryan

SPORTS HOUSES
Bedford - Blue  •  Eden - Yellow  •  Tartrus - Red

PARENTS & CITIZENS
President: Mr Ken Matthews

P&C ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
Meetings are held on the 2nd
Monday of every month at 4.00p.m in the
Common Room.
All welcome!

SCHOOL WATCH
Please report any unusual activity within the
school grounds (131 788)