Dear Students and Parents

‘Works have a stronger voice than words. Actions have a stronger impact than reactions and successful habits define successful outcomes’.

As we approach the mid term period, it is important to reflect upon the impact of interim reporting on goal setting and the actual momentum that this should be reflecting in actions, classroom learning and assessment development. All students are in the full swing of assessment development and learning consolidation. Part of this journey is the development of homework skills. I remind all parents that homework is an expectation of all classrooms and is followed through by teachers in order to develop positive learning habits.

Students in Years 7 & 9 participated in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing this week, to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. I am extremely pleased with the attitude and the commitment our students have shown in achieving the very best during this testing period. All Year 7 & 9 students were then treated to a celebration afternoon on Friday. Thanks to Mr Callahan for this initiative and organizing the event, I am confident that it will be a new school tradition.

I need to remind students in Years 11 and 12 that it is extremely important to meet attendance and completion of course requirements. Under the Education Act students must either be “earning or learning” – in full time employment or in training or schooling until they turn 17. If students choose to study towards a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) then it is expected that their attendance rate is at the school target of 92% and they complete course requirements. This means students must go to classes or other arranged programs, complete class work and assessment. Students must also accept and act in accordance to the schools Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. If students are not prepared to meet these requirements then I will initiate a process of cancellation of enrolment and be asking students to select a different option.

Have you locked in the 27th May in your social calendar? It is the major fundraising event for BSHS – the 40th Annual Art Exhibition. I am looking forward to a fantastic occasion. This event has been running for 40 years in our community and is one of the highlights of the social calendar of Blackwater. Entries are still open and students and the local community are encouraged to enter. Thank you to everyone who has already showed support for this year’s P&C Art Show. P&C has asked for support from parents to help set up (Thursday 26 May 9 - 1pm) and pack up (29 May, 2pm - 5pm) after the event. Please contact the school if you can help.

Linda Galloway
Principal

BMA proudly supporting
Blackwater State High School

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 19/5
Athletics Carnival

Friday 27/5
40th Annual Art Exhibition Opening Night

Saturday 28/5 & Sunday 29/5
Art Exhibition Open 10.00am - 2.00pm

Wednesday 1/6
Central Highlands Show Holiday

Thursday 9/6
Year 6 Taster Day

Friday 10/6
Reader’s Cup

Monday 20/6 - Tuesday 21/6
Healthy Relationship Talks
Years 7 - 11

Friday 24/6
Last Day of Term 2
This week’s behaviour focus has been striving to be above the attendance goal of 92%. Our school attendance rates are dropping rapidly as seen in the attendance table below. The cold and flu season will soon be upon us and we acknowledge that children need to stay home and recover and ensure they don’t come to school and spread illnesses. Thank you to those parents who are providing medical certificates when their children have been ill, or are contacting the school to let us know they are ill and will be away. However, many students are falling into an irregular pattern of attendance which puts their education at risk. Please remember that until they have finished Year 10, students are in the Compulsory Phase of Learning and MUST attend school regularly unless ill, or the carer has advised other reasonable absence (eg compassionate, school supported events such as competitive sports). After they finish Year 10, students must be in some form of training (school, TAFE, apprenticeship etc) until they gain a qualification, obtain a full time job or turn 17. Irregular absence in the Post Compulsory Phase of Learning may result in students being unable to be rated for a semester, or have their enrolment cancelled, which can affect their chances of achieving the QLD Certificate of Education.

Next week’s behaviour focus is on acting responsibly and showing resilience. Students need to ensure they are acting in a responsible way when dealing with issues they have at school. If they have an issue with another student, they should discuss the issue with them proactively and assertively, rather than aggressively or with disrespect. If issues continue, they should seek teacher support to help them sort it out.

Rebecca Godfrey, Deputy Principal

Attendance

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<thead>
<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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<tr>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>87.2%</td>
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EVERY DAY MATTERS

Students need to be in attendance every day unless due to a medical absence or other carer authorised absence relating to family emergencies.

Learning in the Community

Two weeks ago, students enjoyed a trip to the Fitzroy Basin Association and Botanical Gardens in Rockhampton. We learnt a lot about the Central Highlands and the unique endangered animals in our region. A successful day for all involved.

Stefanie Kirk, Head of Special Education Services
Capricornia Careers Expo
On Wednesday this week, Mr Mackay and Ms Wilson took 20, Year 10 students to the expo at the CQ University. The feedback from both staff and students is that it was a valuable experience and the information they collected will be very valuable for their career planning.

USI numbers
A number of students in Years 10 – 12 have not created their USI number yet and this is a requirement for all students studying Certificate subjects. If your student requires assistance to create their number, please ask them to see me with one form of identification. (Birth certificate, Drivers licence, Medicare card)

Year 10 University Widening Participation workshop
Towards the end of this term, Year 10 students will be attending an hour long workshop at school run by CQ University to provide students with insights into tertiary education and its benefits. Then in Term 3, the students will have the opportunity to attend the Emerald campus to attend mock lectures/tutorials etc.

Block Exams/Mock Interviews
Block exams for Years 11/12 will be in Week 10, Monday to Wednesday (13 - 15 June) and on Thursday to Friday (16 - 17 June) all Year 12 students will be given the opportunity to have a mock interview with local employers. To prepare for the interviews, all students need to ensure their resumes are updated and if they require assistance, see Mrs Beak.

Defence Force Recruiting Workshop
On Thursday 26th of May, students will have the opportunity to attend a workshop at school run by the Defence Force which will provide information about careers in the Defence Force and how to apply.

Julie Beak, HOD Senior Secondary

Well done to the drill team from the 14 ACU, after a busy week during ANZAC Day the cadets displayed their skills once again, competing at the North Queensland representative team in the Australian Regimental Sergeant Major – Army Drill Competition. The cadets displayed not only their drill but also public speaking skills. They certainly did the town of Blackwater proud and the North Queensland Army Cadets. Overall they scored a total of 97% and we are anxiously awaiting the 13th June when the results will be announced. There are still places available for recruits to the unit, and we parade at 4pm-6.30pm every Monday. Information is available from the administration or call in and see the unit on Monday afternoon at Turpentine Street.

Major Linda Galloway
On the 3rd of May, the Senior Physics class made the trek to Stanwell Power Station, which is located 20 minutes outside of Rockhampton. As we entered the power station there were the 10 Stanwell Values posted at the entry. The second value was the one that caught my eye “Be Respectful” and as I looked closely at the other values I noticed that all of the Blackwater State High School values were reflected in their values.

As we toured around the site the students were able to see how electricity is generated, from how the power station receives its coal from Curragh Mine (3.5Mt/year), to how it is ground up in one of the large maintenance hungry mills. Each one feeds one of the four units that power four boilers that run four turbines, creating over 1460M watts to feed into homes around Australia.

After the tour we met with a number of engineers who explained the different job roles that the Stanwell Power Station requires. The civil engineers are constantly looking for ways to improve the performance and longevity of the power plant, it is only half way through its life span. Mechanical engineers keep the plant maintained and running at maximum capacity, Unit 4 has been running for 1088 days nonstop. There are also scientists who ensure that the water that is used in the plant is up to scratch, treated and user friendly for the power station. The electrical engineers ensure that all of the electrical components including the turbines, transformers and induction coils are maintained and creating maximum output at minimum cost.

The graduate electrical engineer at the end of the day explained to us why he had entered the power generation industry. Simply put he stated that, “Every industry has its ups and downs, but everyone needs electricity.” Power generation doesn’t just need engineers, it requires administrators and tradies as well. The Stanwell Power Station was an amazing insight into how electricity finds its way into our homes.

Amanda Haslam, Physics Teacher

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**Have you been receiving this newsletter via email?**

If not, we need to update our records with your current email address.

Student Name: ____________________ Parent Contact Email: ____________________

The Blackwater SHS newsletter will no longer be sent home in print form but will be circulated via an Electronic Newsletter Service. To ensure you receive a copy, as well as regular correspondence from the school, please call 4986 9555 or complete the information above and return to the school office.
An inspirational Father is truly priceless.
Honour one today
Nominations close 15th July 2016
at qldfatheroftheyear.org.au

The Queensland Father of the Year 2016 will win a five night family holiday at Sea World Resort and Water Park and the Gold Coast’s favourite Theme Parks.

Grab your partner or a friend!
Does your outdoor kitchen rule?
Can you out cook the rest?
5pm Saturday 6th August
Dingo State School
Live music and bar
Food and entertainment for the kids
For more information contact Carlie on 4986 1311

QParents Pre-launch notice - QParents is coming
Blackwater State High School will soon have QParents. Parents will receive an invitation email or letter soon and it’s great to see that so many parents have registered already. If you have not registered, please advise us immediately of your email address. Over time, QParents will become an integral part of how we communicate with parents. Get on board now to enjoy the ease and convenience that QParents offers.

High Schools are not immune to head lice
A common contagious condition in schools is head lice. You should check your child regularly for head lice and follow the recommended treatment if they are found. If school staff notice head lice, they will send a message home and you will be asked to start the treatment.

While there is no need to vacuum, wash or treat with insecticide any furniture, clothing, bedding (except pillowcases), toys, carpets or hats, the following actions can be taken to help prevent infestation/re-infestation:

- Avoid head to head contact with other persons.
- Keep long hair tied back or in plaits, especially at school.
- Do not share brushes, combs, or pillows.
- Wash combs and hair brushes after each use (60°C for 30 seconds).
- Pillow cases of persons known to be infested should be washed daily on hot cycle or put in the clothes dryer for 15 minutes.
- Treat all household members whose head lice have been detected. The simplest treatment is the fine tooth comb and conditioner.
- Keep hair short, particularly during an outbreak. It is easier to detect and treat head lice in short hair.
- Notify your school so that others can be alerted to the problem and can check for head lice and arrange treatment if necessary.

Suzanne Russell, School Nurse