

Newsletter

Blairmount Public School

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Week 8, Term 3

Learning Together

5/9/2013

Dear families,

Last week we had over 40 students represent us at the Campbelltown Zone Athletics Carnival over two days at Campbelltown Athletics Stadium. I was most impressed to receive such positive feedback from our accompanying teachers regarding our student's behaviour and sportspersonship.

I would like to particularly thank Miss C Minihan, Mrs Haddock and Ms Fakes for accompanying the students over the two days. I would like to particularly recognise and thank Mrs Haddock who attended the Track Finals after school last Thursday. She was able to help organise the competitors and even helped with students getting home after the event. It is extremely pleasing to have such enthusiastic and dedicated staff to support our students.

On another note I would like to welcome Mrs Davis back to the front office after taking extended leave. I would like to thank Ms Brownlee for everything she has done in supporting our school over the last few months. Ms Brownlee will be staying at Blairmount until the end of the year undertaking a number of different roles.

Finally it is with great pleasure that I can introduce our new GA. Mr Blake Manns has been permanently appointed



through merit selection to Blairmount Public School. Mr Manns is settling in very quickly, and although he realises that he has big shoes to fill (Mr Rice) he is extremely excited to be here. I trust you will welcome Mr Manns with the usual Blairmount community enthusiasm.

Regards Greg Turnbull Principal Stage 3 Camp - Australian Government Support The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist parents and Carers in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government contributed funding of \$20 per student who attended this excursion under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. We would like to thank the Australian

Government for their support of this program.

School Self Evaluation Surveys

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This weeks Newsletter includes 4 School Self Evaluation Surveys.

- Quality of School Life https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QZ52V8X
- Literacy https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RVKCXZX
- Numeracy https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FDHVHBT
- Community Engagement -

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RD5N6ZJ

Each of these surveys will give you an opportunity to have an input on how you think Blairmount Public School is going.

There is a paper copy of each of these surveys in this week's newsletter or you can complete the surveys online using the links listed above. Each of the survey links are also available through the school Facebook site or on the school website.

Thanking you Melissa Clarke

Student Welfare Survey

Blairmount Public School has been trialling new school rules, awards and discipline system this year. The school rules are;

- Be a learner
- Be respectful and
- Be safe.

We would love your opinion on the new system, the positives and the negatives. Teachers and students in grades 3-6 will also be surveyed.

There is a paper copy in this week's newsletter or you can complete the survey online at this link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/welfareparent

All surveys are anonymous and the paper copy can be returned to the front office.

Please take the time to fill the survey out as we value your opinions and will discuss any changes that are recommended.

Thanks Miss Dash

Kindergarten 2014

If you have a pre-school child turning 5 years old on or before 31st July 2014, they are eligible to enrol in Kindergarten for 2014.

If you haven't already done so, please collect an enrolment form from the office and return it to school ASAP. If you are aware of neighbours or friends with eligible children, please advise them to come and introduce themselves and ask for an enrolment form and information about the school.

After School Pick-Up Areas

Please remember that there are designated areas to collect children after school. There should be NO parents waiting inside the buildings to collect students. Exiting the school must be via paths (not through the gardens) and remember to take extra care near the car park.

No Student Supervision Before 8:30am

Please remember that there is no teacher supervision at school prior to 8.30am and children should not be at school before this time.

Kindergarten 2014 Parent Information Session

In previous years, Blairmount has visited the local preschools around this time of year to do a 'readiness for school talk' for those parents who are considering enrolling their child in Kindergarten next year.



This year we are doing things a little bit differently. We are holding an information session here at Blairmount for parents who would like to gain a better understanding of whether their child is ready to start school next year.

The information session will be held in the hall on Wednesday the 18th September at 5pm. If you would like to attend this information session please call the front office to reserve your spot.

Thank you, Miss Kelly Howick

Head Lice

We have had several cases of head lice during the last few weeks. Please help us by checking your child's hair. This is best done by combing through some conditioner with a fine tooth comb. Check the comb with each stroke to see if there are any head lice present.

If lice are found please talk to the Chemist about an appropriate product to treat your child's hair and treat in accordance with the directions on the bottle. Remove all eggs (lice). This helps to ensure that you can more easily detect a new outbreak.

Wash all hats, pillows, sheets etc. Check your child's hair every few days after treatment to ensure that they have not been re-infected.

Happy Birthday

Jacob Dempsey, Denim Falconer-Pierce, Melanie Iopu, Eliza Silata, Sascha Hoffman, Rehana Ali, Tamika Owens, Jack Burns, April Haake, Faith Faleali'I, Rihanna Asgill.

What's Happening in Mathematics in 2L?

The students in 2L have been learning how to use the split and jump strategies when adding and subtracting two numbers.



Each student recorded the strategy that they used on an iPad using the app Educreations. They were encouraged to explain each step of the strategy to show how they solved the question. The students were engaged in their learning and thoroughly enjoyed this interactive way of learning



'I like using the iPads to learn because they are lots of fun. I liked using the number line on the iPads to help me with counting.' John Hotz

'I loved using the iPads because it was something new. It made Maths a lot of fun.' Mikayla Craig



Library News

Bookfair

During Education Week we held our second Bookfair for the year. It was great to see so many parents visiting the Library and purchasing books for their children. Our sales were fantastic and so I was able to keep about \$580 worth of books for the library. Several books were kindly donated as well.

Bookweek Performer

Aleesah Darlison , an up and coming Australian author recently performed at school for Book Week. It was pleasing to see many of our younger students attending the show. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the shows due to teaching commitments but from what I hear she was very entertaining. She also commented on the excellent behaviour of the children who attended which was pleasing to hear.

Bookclub

Issue 6 bookclub is due back at school on or before this Friday 6th September.

Mrs C.Burden Teacher Librarian

P&C Update

The next fundraising event will be the The Smurfs 2 P&C movie night. We have booked the Dumaresq Street Cinema on Tuesday 17th September. All tickets will be \$8 and are now on sale each Friday from 16th August



between 8.30am - 9.00am and 2.30pm - 3.00pm. There will only be 300 tickets available for this event, so please get in quick to ensure you don't miss out.

The P&C has requested that all children attending this night MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Student Medical Forms

During Terms 3 and 4 we will be updating our medical records systems to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child's health.

If you have a child with a medical condition you will receive a copy of the new forms in the mail and will need to fill them out and return them to us as soon as you can.

The good news is we have already started collecting some of this information, which means less for you to do.

The new forms will help us collect your child's important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we'll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child.

We appreciate your support as we start collecting the information, and if you have any questions please call.

SAS Staff Recognition Day - Vital to Education We are very fortunate, at Blairmount, to have a very efficient School Administration team - the office area runs like a well-oiled machine under the leadership of Sharon Jones (SAM). Thank you to our School Administration Officers (SAO) Jodie Brownlee, Julie Flynn and Narelle Davis.

We are also lucky to boast exceptional support for students with special needs, from our School Learning and Support Officers (SLSO) Catherine Boal and Margie Brennan.

Our new General Assistant (G.A.), Blake Mann, is a busy beaver around the school, fixing, mowing, hanging, digging etc etc. and he does so with a smile.

We appreciate the commitment, from all our SASS members of staff, to all the students and staff at Blairmount.



Text Patterning in 5A

Students were asked to text pattern the following passage from Roald Dahl's, George's Marvelous Medicine:

In the kitchen, George put the saucepan on the stove and turned up the gas flame underneath it as high as it would go.

In the monastery, the karate students trained for their next big tournament. By Nathan Chaoprasy

On the field, Johnson put the ball on the tee for the first kick off for the season. By Brad Butt

In Hayne's room, Hayne put the football on the shelf and hid his friend's tickets underneath his pillow so they would be safe. By Deacon Fox

On a dark night, on a sandy beach, she cried for the loss of her love and the seagulls wept for the loss of the caretaker. By Taneesha Fernado

3G Successful Shooting Stars



Congratulations to the following 3G students who have achieved their learning goal in their recount writing.

Joyel, Tynieka, Portia, Angelene, Starr, Kirra, Ryan, Elijah A, Tanika, Claxton, Tamati and John.

Congratulations to the following 3G students who have achieved their learning goal in addition and subtraction.



Tariq, Ezekiel and Joyel.

I am very proud of the continued effort of all students in 3G.

Mrs Gawthorne

wĸ	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	15 July School Development Day (Teachers Only)	16 Students Return	17	18	19
2	22	23	24	25	26
3	29	30	31 P&C Disco K-2 Lunchtime 3-6 4.30 – 6.30pm	1 August	2
4	5 P&C Meeting 6pm	6	7 Athletics Carnival Campbelltown Stadium	8	9 PSSA Gala Day
5	12 Book Week Performer	13	14 Stage 3 Overnight Excursion	15 Stage 2 Grandparents Day Stage 3 Overnight Excursion	16 Stage 3 Return Excursion (Approx 7pm)
6	19	20	21 K-6 Assembly 1.50pm Kindergarten Hosting	22	23
7	26	27	28 Zone Athletics - Track	29 Zone Athletics - Field	30 Fathers Day Stall K-6 Assembly 2.15pm 3G Hosting
8	2 September P&C Meeting 6pm	3	4 Yr 5 Tree Planting Excursion Yr 6 Eaglevale HS Visit Kindergarten Dad's Fun Night	5 Year 5 & 6 Cake Stall	6 PSSA Gala Day
9	9	10 K-2 Classes Parent / Teacher Interviews	11	12 3-6 Classes Parent / Teacher Interviews	13 K-6 Assembly 2.00pm 1/2M Hosting
10	16	17 P&C Movie Night Dumaresq St Cinema Smurfs 2	18	19	20 Last Day Term 3

Blairmount Public School - Term 3 - 2013

		Please Tick Who You Are:			
Blairmount Public School – Student We	Ifare Surve	y	Student	Parent	Teacher
Questions relating to School Rules:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The new school rules are easy to understand.					
2. The new school rules are seen and are on display.					
3. The new school rules are easier to follow.					
The rules are consistently followed across the school.					
5. The new school rules are appropriate and fair.					
Do you like the new school rules?	Comment		-		
Do the new school rules reflect our goals?	Comment	:			
Questions relating to School Discipline:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Punishments are clear and easy to understand.					
2. Punishments are consistent.					
3. Punishments align to the new school rules.					
4. Consequences are known to students, parents and teachers.					
5. Punishments do not discriminate.					
Questions relating to school awards:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Students and parents value the awards.					
2. The new award system is easier to follow.					
An award should be given out for each rule at every assembly.					
 Playground awards are consistently handed out. 					
Term awards are valued more than assembly awards.					
Are there any suggestions for improvement to our p	ositive and	negative be	haviour syste	em?	
Comment:					

Parent Survey - LITERACY

Parent Survey - Literacy

The information collected from the following survey is to assist school staff, parents and community members to assess the effectiveness of current school practices and programs. Please take the time to fill out the survey as we value your opinions and will discuss any changes recommended.

Thanking you Melissa Clarke

***** Please answer the following questions:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. English (talking, listening, reading and writing) is an important subject to learn.	O	0	C	O	O
2. Teachers have high expectations of their students in English.	O	0	C	O	O
3. The school expects my child to do his/her best and do well in English.	O	O	C	C	O
4. As a parent I expect my child to do his/her best and do well in English.	O	0	C	O	C
5. I believe my child has good reading skills.	\odot	0	C	\odot	O
8. I believe my child has good writing skills.	C	O	C	O	O
9. The activities my child's teacher uses in literacy (talking, listening, reading and writing) helps him/her to learn.	0	О	C	C	O
10. My child can tell me what literacy skills they are learning and why.	C	0	C	O	C
11. My child uses the skills they have learnt in English in other subjects.	O	O	C	C	O
12. My child's teacher clearly explains how my child is going in English.	C	0	C	O	C
13. My child's teacher offers suggestions for how I can further my child's learning at home.	O	О	C	C	O

Any further comments or suggestions?

Parent Survey - NUMERACY

The information collected from the following survey is to assist school staff, parents and community members to assess the effectiveness of current school practices and programs. Please take the time to fill out the survey as we value your opinions and will discuss any changes recommended.

Thanking you Melissa Clarke

*****Please answer the following questions:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. Mathematics is an important subject for my child to learn.	O	0	0	0	0
2. My childs teacher expects that they will do well in Maths.	O	O	C	C	C
3. The school expects my child to do their best and do well in Maths.	O	O	О	О	O
4. I expect my child to do their best and do well in Maths.	O	C	O	C	O
5. I encourage my child to do their best and take pride in learning.	C	O	O	O	O
6. I believe my child has good number skills.	O	O	O	O	O
7. I believe my child has good space and measurement skills.	C	С	0	C	O
8. My child can tell me what they are learning in Maths and why.	O	С	O	C	C
9. The activities my child's teacher uses in maths helps them to learn.	C	О	О	O	С
10. My child uses the skills they learn in Maths in other subjects.	C	C	O	C	O
11. My child's teacher clearly explains how my child is going in Maths.	C	O	O	O	O
12. My child's teacher offers suggestions for how I can further my child's learning at home.	O	O	O	O	O

Any further comments or suggestions?

Quality of School Life - Parent Survey

Quality of School Life Parent's Survey

Dear Parent's,

The data to be collected from this survey will be used to address the key areas of our Annual School Report. Could you please take the time to complete this survey online using the URL https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QZS2V8X or by completing this survey and returning it to the school by Friday 20th September 2013. Please consider each of the questions of this survey, and answer them to the best of your ability.

Thanking you

Melissa Clarke

1. I feel welcom	ed in the school?			
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
1	O	O	O	O
2. The school ta	akes parent concerns	seriously?		
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
2	O	O	0	0
3. The school p	rovides helpful inforn	nation about all	student's progres	s?
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
3	O	O	О	O
4. Parents are m	nade to feel welcome	to talk to teach	ers about their chi	ld's progress?
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
4	O	O	0	O
5. The school va	alues parent contribu	tions?		
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
5	O	O	0	0
6. Teachers at t students?	his school provide a s	stimulating and	challenging enviro	onment for
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
6	O	O	0	O
7. Teachers car	e if students are not o	loing as well as	they can?	
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
7	O	O	O	O
8. The school ha	as a safe and secure	environment?		
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
8	O	O	0	O

Quality of Scho	ol Life - Parent	Survey		
-	high expectations	-	?	
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
9	0	C C	0	C
10. The school is	always looking for	ways to improv	e what it does?	
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
10	O	C	О	C
11. The school re	gularly praises and	rewards stude	nts when success	ful?
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
11	0	Õ	0	O
12. Students are t	the school's main fo	ocus?		
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
12	O	O	О	C
13. Parents are h	appy to send their c	hildren to this s	school?	
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
13	0	O	0	O
14. Parents share	in the education of	their children a	at this school?	
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
14	0	Õ	0	O
15. Parents receiv	ve adequate notice	of school event	s?	
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
15	O	C	O	C
16. The annual sc school is perform	hool report, newsle	tters and other	information tell pa	rents how the
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
16	©	©	O	C
10				
17. Parents are en of the school?	ncouraged to partic	ipate in the imp	ortant decision ma	king committees
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
17	0	C	0	O
	to mo know obout o		ee it ie eenelderin	
deas about it?	ts me know about a	iny major chang	jes it is considerin	g and asks for m
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
18	O	C	O	O
19. The school's o	current aim is to im	prove the qualit	y of learning and t	eaching?
	1 Strongly Agree	2 Agree	3 Disagree	4 Don't Know
19	0	Õ	0	C

Community Engagement Survey

The information collected from the responses to the following statements is to assist school staff, parents and community members to assess the effectiveness of current school practices in working collaboratively with the community to improve student learning outcomes. All survey data needs to be completed by 20th September 2013.

Thanking you Melissa Clarke

Participant details: Select the relevant box

- Student
- O parent/carer
- C community member
- O SASS
- C teacher
- O executive
- O principal

Are you from a Language Background other than English?

- O Yes
- O No

If Yes (please specify)

Are you Aboriginal?

- O Yes
- O No

Are you Torres Strait Islander?

- O Yes
- No

Instructions: Each of the statements below begins with This is a school where...

Use the rating scale below to indicate your **overall agreement** with each statement as it relates to your school by selecting a rating in each line.

Community Engagement Survey

Strongly Strongly Don't Agree Disagree Agree Disagree Know \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 1. This is a school where information about the school's programs and activities is regularly communicated to parents/carers. \odot \odot \odot \mathbf{O} 2. This is a school where information about student's progress is clearly communicated to parents and carers. \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 3. This is a school where members of the community are regularly invited to meet with school leaders. \odot \odot \odot 4. This is a school where information about student learning is shared between home and school. \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 5. This is a school where learning activities connect students to family and community contexts. \odot \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 6. This is a school where class activities are interesting and engage students in learning. \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 7. This is a school where parents/carers are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning. \odot 8. This is a school where members of the community come together \mathbf{O} \bigcirc \odot regularly to support student learning. \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 9. This is a school where all members of the school community are supported to contribute to its success. \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \odot 10. This is a school where the backgrounds of all cultural groups are reflected in school practices and activities. C C C \odot 11. This is a school where teachers and families work in partnership to support students' learning. \odot \bigcirc \odot \odot \bigcirc 12. This is a school where parents and carers are supported to assist their child's learning at home. \bigcirc \odot \odot \bigcirc 13. This is a school where the needs of families are considered when organising school activities such as meetings. \bigcirc \odot \odot 14. This is a school where the school talks with families when there are important decisions to make about what goes on in the school. \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 15. This is a school where parents, carers and community members including the local and/or regional Aboriginal Education Consultative Group are involved in the development and monitoring of key activities in the school plan. igodot \odot 16. This is a school where community representatives on school committees are actively encouraged, valued and listened to. 0 0 \bigcirc \bigcirc 17. This is a school where community resources and skills are used to support student learning. \odot \odot

* Statement of effective practice

18. This is a school where school leaders are active members of community committees related to education and training.

19. This is a school where the wider community actively supports

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C	Community Engagement Survey						
	events to celebrate student achievements.						
	20. This is a school where families are invited and encouraged to be involved in classroom and school activities.	C	O	O	O	O	
	21. This is a school where parents and community members including the local and/or regional AECG are encouraged and supported to take on leadership roles within the school.	C	C	0	O	O	
	22. This is a school where positive relationships exist between the school and its community.	C	C	O	C	C	

What are the three most successful things that the school and community do together to improve students' learning outcomes?

1.	
2.	
3.	

What are three things that the school and community could do better to improve students' learning outcomes?

1.	
2.	
3.	

Thank you!

Thank you for your time. Your contribution will assist in the school planning process.