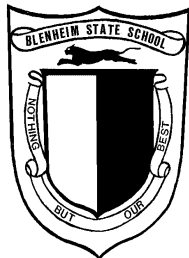


Blenheim State School
NEWSLETTER

Climbing high - in quest of success



'NOTHING
 BUT
 OUR
 BEST'

Strength

Persistence

Achievement

Volume 4 – Wednesday 11 March 2009

From the Principal



Here we are with only 4 weeks of the term remaining. The Years 5, 6 and 7 students are busy with **assessment tasks** related to this term's study. The **Prep** students now understand the school routine and participate in their school activities enthusiastically.

extended a huge **thank you** – **Jody Allen, Mary Cullinane, Kim Inns and Joanne Seng.**



*Best wishes
 Sandra Duncalfe
 Principal*



Last week the school's ICT infrastructure received a **broadband upgrade** which will greatly enhance our internet connectivity.

Thursday 9th April is the last day of term and we have a big day planned so mark your calendar and join us for an exciting day including **classroom visits, our school's cross country, Easter egg hunt, Easter Bonnet Parade and sausage sizzle!** What a way to end the term with a bang!



The reports from the **combined choir** rehearsals are that it sounds beautiful. This is a great experience for the 8 students who are participating in the choir and the parents who enable it to happen by providing transport are

In light of the **upcoming state elections the Years 5-7 class** discussed what things we would like changed about Queensland. The ideas that the students came up with are:

1. Reduce fuel prices.
2. Keep the prices at Fast Food places the same rather than increase them.
3. Ensure that wildlife and the environment are looked after.
4. Provide more facilities at parks.
5. Make it a rule that if a politician makes a promise they have to keep it!
6. Install safety features at major crossroads.
7. Have severe penalties for abuse of wildlife.
8. Reduce fruit and vegetable prices.
9. Get rid of tolls on major roads.
10. Upgrade the paths next to roads for bike riders and pedestrians.
11. Have more recycling.

What a great list!

Learning about length and measurement

From an early age, your child is taught about length and measurement in the classroom. You can share experiences in your home to help improve their numeracy skills. Explain to your child that the length of something is the distance between two points.

You and your child can measure the length of objects using different items as measuring units e.g. hands, fingers, feet, straws, paperclips, ice cream sticks or even pencils. Here are a few ways you can explore length with your child:

- during daily activities, take the opportunity to ask your child to compare lengths of different objects, or line up objects, such as shoes, from longest to shortest
- remember to keep asking questions using language such as 'which object is shorter, longer, lower, wider or thicker ?'

- encourage your child to compare the heights of people in your family or objects in your home. You and your child could create a height chart and record the height of visitors and friends and discuss your findings
- provide experiences and opportunities for your child to estimate length and get them to verify their estimations
- as your child learns about metres and other standard units of measuring such as centimetres, you can encourage discussion on estimating the lengths of various objects.

If you would like more information to assist your child in understanding length and measurement as well as improving his/her literacy and numeracy skills, visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/



Flick the switch for Earth Hour

For one hour, from 8.30pm to 9.30pm, on Saturday 28 March the whole of Australia is being asked to 'flick the switch' for Earth Hour.

Earth Hour, the World Wildlife Fund's global environmental initiative, aims to raise awareness of the climate change issue and makes it possible for individuals to take action and reduce greenhouse emissions. It is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community – a call to stand up, to take responsibility and to get involved in working towards a sustainable future.

All households are encouraged to participate by switching out their lights

and turning off non-essential electrical appliances. It is important to register your participation on the Earth Hour website in order to make your action count.



For more information on how to register and how to participate visit www.earthhour.org/

It's a fantastic way to support your child's creative development and also gain a special keepsake.

To find out more about the projects, competitions and events throughout this year, go to the YOC website at: www.yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2009 from Germany, Italy, France, Holland, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark Finland, Japan, Brazil, Canada and the USA. Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 5 or 10 months and they all attend local high schools whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness - invaluable characteristics in today's world. We organise all the flights, school enrolment, transportation, insurances and support systems. Just imagine your child having an older brother or sister for a few months from another country. It's a great opportunity for young children to start learning that there is a world of variety and opportunity waiting for them – different languages, foods, sports, customs, and perhaps a visit to look forward to when they grow up.

To enquire, call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au or email scceaust@scce.com.au

P&C NEWS

Please note that the time of the next meeting on **Monday 16 March** has been changed to **3pm**. All are most welcome!

The following people attended the working bee on Saturday and did a fantastic job improving the school grounds: **Mark, Joanne, Tim, Amy and Jodie Seng; Murray, Jody, Karinna and Sarah Allen; Jodie Madden and Georgina; Lindsay Rowland, Lynne and Angelique Asselin; Ian McKinlay; Larry and Sandra Duncalfe**. A huge amount of work was done and we thank all who gave up their time and machinery to improve the grounds for our children.



One of the tasks completed on Saturday was the spreading of **woodchips** in the garden bordering the fence along the top oval. It looks great but we ran out of woodchips so if you know anyone who has unwanted woodchips, they can be dropped off near the burning pit on the top oval.

Remember to send along donations for the Election stall as detailed in the notice that has already gone out to all families.



Diary Dates

(Please note that these dates may change. Notice will be given if this occurs)

- ❖ 12th February Swimming lessons start for 5 weeks
- ❖ 16th March P&C Meeting

- ❖ 9th April Blenheim Cross Country/Fun Run, Sausage Sizzle, Easter bonnet parade
- ❖ 10th April Good Friday
- ❖ 20th April Student Free Day
- ❖ 21st April Term 2 commences
- ❖ 12th,13th,14th May NAPLAN tests for Years 3, 5, 7
- ❖ 30th April Laidley District cross country trials at Blenheim SS
- ❖ 5th May School Photos
- ❖ 8th May Lockyer District Cross Country Trials Clarendon SS
- ❖ 12th June Inter-House sports day Blenheim SS
- ❖ 19th June 9.30 Arts Council Blenheim Hall. Cost \$6 per student or \$15 for family with 3 or more. Performance is titled "Thoughts have feelings too"
- ❖ 25th June Laidley District Small School's Athletics Carnival 26th Laidley Rec Grounds
- ❖ 26th June end term 2
- ❖ 13th July Pupil Free Day
- ❖ 14th July begin term 3
- ❖ 3rd August Choral Festival day long practice at Ipswich High school.
- ❖ 3rd August Choral Festival Performance 5.30pm – 6.15pm at Ipswich High School
- ❖ 10th August Show holiday
- ❖ 12th August Pupil Free Day
- ❖ 21st August Ball Games Carnival at Thornton SS
- ❖ 18th September Speed Soccer Carnival Laidley Rec Grounds
- ❖ End term 3
- ❖ 5th October Term 4 starts
- ❖ 19th October Pupil Free Day
- ❖ 11th December end term 4 2009



Community Notices (repeat notice)



Music with Style
Tuition in

Piano

Keyboard

*Guitar Learning with
encouragement, performance
One to one group interaction*

*Quality Teaching
Reasonable Rates*

TELEPHONE VAL

0466 306 626

*Member of the Australian Guild of
Music and Education Queensland*

Teacher Registration no M3506

Blue Card Approved

Lockyer District Netball Trials **Wednesday 18th March**

Girls 11 years and 12 years

3.45pm – 5.45pm at Lowood State School. Please bring Principal approval form and medical form with you. These are available from your school office.

Jackie Williams

**If you need more information then
please contact me on
jwill324@eq.edu.au**

