

Blenheim State School
NEWSLETTER

Climbing high - in quest of success



'NOTHING
BUT
OUR
BEST'

Strength

Persistence

Achievement

Volume 5 – Wednesday 25 March 2009

From the Principal



What an exciting couple of weeks it has been since the last newsletter. As part of the federal government's ***Building the Education Revolution*** (BER) our school will receive **\$250,000**. In consultation with the P&C and Regional Office it has been decided to build a new library/multi-purpose building with these funds. We are in the process of finalising the plans for this building. We are also entitled to receive up to **\$50,000** under the ***National School Pride*** program. I have submitted our application for these funds to be used for the following items which the P&C endorses: coin operated lights for the tennis court; refurbishment of classroom floor coverings and internal painting of B Block and the toilets as well as replacing the timber seats in the eating areas with aluminium ones; replacement of the louvers in the A Block classroom with sliding windows and a changeable sign to keep the whole community informed of school

happenings. We now have to await news of the success of these applications.

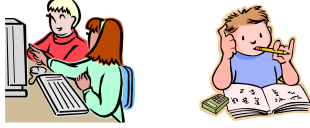


The Years 5, 6 and 7 class has designed and constructed **dragons** as part of their current unit of study about The Middle Ages. They are still a work in progress but are shaping up to be quite impressive. Make sure you have a look at them during classroom visits on Fun Run day, 9th April.



As the time for the **Years 3, 5, 7 National Tests on 12, 13, 14 May** approaches, the focus of our teaching is on the concepts which are likely to be tested. There is much explicit teaching occurring and it is important for all students to be present for this learning. Parents are therefore

reminded of the need for **absences from school to be absolutely necessary** and within Education Queensland's guidelines of acceptable reasons for absence. For example, visiting relatives is not an acceptable reason for absence from school. Parents are also reminded that a written explanation of student absences is required on the day of return to school.



Best wishes
Sandra Duncalfe
Principal

We have received enquiries about the **winter uniform**. It is a **black tracksuit** worn over **black** shorts and school shirt. As the days become warmer by lunch time, the students often remove their tracksuits so it is important to have them named. The school hat is a **wide brimmed green sunhat**, in keeping with our Sun Safe policy.

Nominate your Favourite Teacher

Students are now able to tell us all about what makes their teacher so special with the My Favourite Teacher program.

This year, students are asked to nominate a teacher who has inspired them to become more creative as part of the Year of Creativity.

My Favourite Teacher is an opportunity to recognise and reward the commitment of Queensland state school teachers. Last year, Queensland students cast more than 4000 votes.

State school students are encouraged to nominate their favourite teacher via the Department's website:
www.education.qld.gov.au/community/events/edweek/favteacher/

All students need to do is write in 25 words or less why their favourite teacher is so special. Of course, parents of younger children are encouraged to give them a hand.

Entries close on 8 May and the winning teachers will be announced during State Education Week, to be held from 1 – 5 June.

Why reading stories matters

Books help to develop your child's language, knowledge and understanding, as they introduce young readers to a huge variety of new words and topics.

If your child is familiar with books and reading, they will be better prepared to take advantage of all learning.

Taking the time to read to your child, or introducing them to a number of different books will make them more comfortable reading at school.

Reading is also a way for parents to spend quality time with their children and will help to build a stronger relationship between you and your child.

Children learn by example, so watching you read and talking together about reading will show your child that reading is a valuable skill and an excellent way to spend free time.

If you would like more information about reading with your child visit:
www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

The best Australian books for kids

Sometimes as a parent you may have trouble choosing a children's book. One way to find the perfect book is to learn about what kinds of stories your child is interested in.

For younger children, there are a variety of audio books available to borrow at libraries and purchase at book stores. Your child can listen to the story as they learn to read.

This will not only keep them interested, but help them recognise important words and letters.

Here are some titles of Australian classics to share with your child:
Blinky Bill by Dorothy Wall
I can jump puddles by Alan Marshall
The Muddleheaded Wombat and
Playing Beatie Bow by Ruth Park
Snugglepoot and Cuddlepoot by May Gibbs.

Our school suggests the following stories and picture books for younger readers:

The *Tashi* series by Anna Fienberg
Cool Bananas by Christine Harris and Bettina Guthridge
Are You Hungry? by Tina Burke
No Room for a Mouse by Kyle Mewburn and Freya Blackwood
Nim's Island by Wendy Orr
One Blue Sock by Emily Ballou and Stephen Michael King.

For older children:

Daughter of the Regiment by Jackie French
Hating Alison Ashley by Robin Klein
Two Weeks with the Queen by Morris Gleitzman
Pigs Might Fly by Emily Rodda
Lockie Leonard Human Torpedo by Tim Winton.

Remember to talk to your child to discover if he or she likes mystery or adventure stories or humorous books. This will not only make choosing a book easier, it will also make reading more enjoyable.

Prep Photos

The photo of our cute preps will be appearing in the QT newspaper on the 1st of April.

Diary Dates

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



- ❖ 9th April Blenheim Cross Country/Fun Run
- ❖ 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 Arts council (\$6 per student or \$12 family 3 or more)
- ❖ 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

P&C NEWS

A very **BIG** thank you to everyone who baked, cooked, potted and grew things for our stall on Election Day. The stall was very popular with both locals and non-locals. One Brisbane visitor who comes all the way out here to vote was disappointed that he had missed out on the stall by coming later in the day. The raffles were very popular with the beautiful basket (and beer & wine) won by Pippa who only bought a ticket because she liked the basket (and she is sticking to that story!). The Easter egg basket was one by a local resident from Laidley. Around \$600 profit was raised via this stall which is an excellent result. Many comments were also received by voters on what a beautiful school we had and how beautiful our gardens were. Thanks again everyone!!