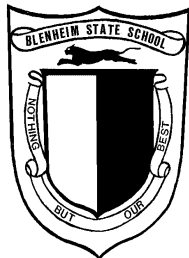


Blenheim State School
NEWSLETTER

Climbing high - in quest of success



'NOTHING
BUT
OUR
BEST'

Strength

Persistence

Achievement

Volume 1 – Wednesday 28 January 2009



From the Principal

Welcome to the 2009 school year. It is always an exciting time, welcoming the students in Prep who are beginning their school lives and the returning students who have grown so much over the holidays! We extend a **very warm welcome** to the following new students: Georgina Cochrane, Danielle Horne, Noah McGill and Fiona Tremain in Prep; in other year levels we have Eleisha, Kyle and Ryan Tremain as well as Tori-Jaye and Codie-Skye Hotz.



In the final newsletter last year I mentioned our two Year 7 students who participated in the **AB Paterson College Mathematical Modelling Challenge**. After that newsletter, I received a letter from the Dean of Mathematics and Science Education, a copy of which is attached to this newsletter. This letter reinforces the reputation that Blenheim students have for excellent behaviour and school pride. **Well done Angelique Asselin and Shannyn Heteraka-Pope!**



Thursdays are important days in our school week as it is when the students have their Library, Music and PE lessons. So please ensure the children come to school with their library books (in a library bag please) and dressed for PE on Thursdays.

Swimming lessons will commence at the Laidley Pool at 1pm on Thursday 12th February until 12th March for 5 weeks. Parents are reminded that it is Education Queensland policy that students **must wear a sun shirt** whilst swimming. Laidley Pool requires students to wear a **cap**. Normal PE lessons will take place on Thursdays before and after the block of swimming lessons. As there has been an increase in all swimming costs this year, students are asked to pay **\$1 per lesson**, which doesn't even cover the \$1.50 charge to enter the pool.



Students having **tennis lessons** on Wednesday mornings need to be at the court at 8am on 4th February. Georgina charges \$8 per lesson for a term of 8 lessons, paid in advance unless other arrangements have been made.



A reminder for families who are interested in **guitar lessons** on Thursday mornings to contact the instructor, Blair Prideaux, by telephoning 5465 3083 to discuss the arrangements. The lessons will take place before school, commencing on 5th February.



Our school has successfully applied to participate in the **Get Active Queensland Schools Program**. The program is a fun, healthy and challenging physical activity program designed especially for schools to encourage positive attitudes towards daily physical activity as part of an active, healthy lifestyle. An athlete will be visiting the school and working with the students in two 45 minute sessions on the afternoon of Monday 16th February.



Please remember, when making plans for next year that the **NAPLAN (National) tests for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take place on the 12th, 13th and 14th May.**

Best wishes
Sandra Duncalfe
Principal

P&C AGM

Come along on **16th February** at 7pm for our AGM. We would love to see new faces and have more families sharing their ideas. The P&C is very important to the school's operations and is a great way to support your children's school.

How you can help your child with reading

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and it is important to encourage your child to read outside of the classroom. You can help your children to improve their reading skills by:

- visiting the local library – this is an economical way to provide access to different kinds of books and learning materials and allows children to borrow from a wide range. Your library may also offer a reading program which makes reading an exciting experience and allows them to mix with other children
- asking 'why' questions as you read a book or story together to help your child understand and asking them to think about alternate endings to make much-loved books even more interesting
- reading to your child as often as you can and by trying to carry a book with you when away from home
- letting your child hold the book and turn the pages when you are reading together – this lets your child join in and allows you to talk about the pictures
- congratulating your child on their reading – this will encourage them to enjoy the reading experience
- pointing out words as you read them, especially long or interesting words – this will create a word bank or a spelling list which will help your child with their writing
- making a message board or space at home and encouraging your child to read and leave messages for other family members – this will also give them an important job in the household.

How you can help your child with writing

Everyday tasks such as making a shopping list can help improve your child's writing skills.

Our school encourages all parents to help their children with their writing at home. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ask your child to make a greeting card for a special occasion
- talk about the different ways we use writing (making lists, writing messages or notes)
- make personalised scrap books with your child – glue a photo or picture your child chooses onto a page and ask them to write words or sentences about the picture
- create a special place for your child to write. Providing writing materials, such as an easel or blackboard with scrap paper and pencils, makes a great environment to experiment with writing
- set up some plastic letter tiles or magnets for your child to play with or a keyboard to spell out or type words.

Exploring numeracy with your child

While board games and puzzles may appear to be just fun activities, they can also help to improve your child's numeracy skills and encourage them to think logically.

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

Many opportunities to be numerate happen at home. Here are a few ways you can explore numeracy with your child:

- show your child how you use maths for different reasons, such as looking at timetables, calendars and clocks
- talk about the numbers and patterns your child comes across each day while playing games or sports
- encourage your child to count and sort objects into groups. You could use books, clothing or shoes and discuss how they sorted them into those groups
- explore ways to use and count money through budgets and

shopping. Let your child calculate the cost of items and help them add up how much change you will receive

- ask questions such as “does that make sense?” or “can this be done another way?” to help develop numerate thinking when they are solving problems
- talk positively about maths and show interest in the maths they learn at school.

For more information and ideas on how you can support your child's reading, writing and numeracy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

Protecting against the sun

Queensland state school students are protected from our harsh sun by the Department's *Developing a Sun Safety Strategy* policy.

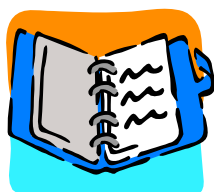
This policy requires that all schools provide an SPF 30+ broad spectrum waterproof sunscreen to students for outdoor activities and ensure they are wearing protective clothing. It also requires schools to develop educational programs on sun safety.

Schools develop sun safety strategies in consultation with their school community, and parents are encouraged to support the strategy by providing their children with appropriate protective clothing, including hats, sunglasses and swim shirts for water-based activities. Under the Department's policy, swim shirts must be worn by Prep to Year 7 students during all water-based activities except during races at school swimming carnivals.

The Queensland Cancer Council's website has plenty of tips for parents on reducing the risk of over-exposure to the sun. Visit their site at: http://www.cancerqld.org.au/reduce_risk/prevention/prevent_sunProtection.asp

Diary Dates

- ❖ 12th February Swimming lessons start for 5 weeks
- ❖ Get Active Qld school visit
- ❖ 16th February P&C AGM
- ❖ 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



Junior games are played on Thursday evenings, Season commences 5th February 2009.

Cost : Netta 7-10yrs, Grass court modified, \$70

Junior 1 & 2, (10-17yrs) \$80

For Further Information please call Laurie: 5465 7141 Or 0412 00 2330

**LAIDLEY JUNIOR
RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL
CLUB**

**SIGN ON DAY
7 FEB 2009**

**LAIDLEY REC RESERVE
11.00am – 2.00pm**

U6 – U16

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Gatton Junior Rugby League Football Club is conducting its "Sign On" day

Sunday **8th February**

at the Cahill Park Sports Club, Buaraba Street, Gatton

from **11:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

We are looking for players from U6 through to U16 for the 2009 season.

Girls are eligible to play up until U13.

New players are required to bring their birth certificate.

Registration fees are:

Family: \$140.00

Two: \$120.00

Single: \$ 70.00

Last year 3 teams made the semi finals and 1 team got into the grand final, but this year with your participation we are sure to do better.

Phone Peter Ryan 5462 7381 or

0427 627 381.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**LAIDLEY & DISTRICTS
NETBALL ASSOCIATION
INC**

Netta, Junior 1 & 2 Sign -on :
Thurs 29th Jan 3.30pm – 5.30pm

At : Laidley Netball Courts (Edward Street) Recreation Grounds

For players aged between 7yrs – 17yrs, team nominations or players looking to join a team.

