6 February 2015

Principals’ Report

I trust that all families enjoyed a safe and relaxing December and January school holidays catching up with friends and family. I would like to welcome back to Blacktown South Public School all our students and their families. I hope all are refreshed for an exciting and full year of learning and school activities.

I would especially like to welcome our new students, our kindergarten students who started on Tuesday and any new families within our school.

2015 Classes and School Structure

As of today we have comfortably maintained our numbers for our 34 class structure. Though I still need to have this structure confirmed by the Department of Education and Communities I am confident that we will keep our current class structure.

Please click on link below for names of classes and teachers.

New Classes

Though the weather caused us some difficulties it was fantastic to be able to allocate students to their new classes on the morning of the first day. This ensures that ‘learning’ starts as early in the year as possible.

SNIP – Newsletter

It is my practice to publish a hard copy of the first newsletter of the year to increase the likelihood of it reaching all parents. Subsequent newsletters will be emailed out (SNIP). If your email address has changed or you would like to add an email address, please complete the accompanying information sheet and return it to the school office ASAP.

Click on link below for sheet.

School APP

Our school now has our own ‘Skoolbag’ iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our school community. We ask parents and caregivers to install the Blacktown South PS App. To install our App, just search for ‘Blacktown South Public School’ in either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

For more detailed instructions please click on link below for more information.

We will ensure newsletters and all important notes are loaded on our App. We will expand the scope of services through our App as we and all our school community become more confident with it.

I hope you find this new form of communication helpful.

Term 1 Calendar

Attached to this newsletter is also a copy of this terms calendar. Please note the various major events and activities for this term.

Please be aware that this was correct at the time of printing and we endeavour to maintain these published dates but occasionally we will need to alter or add dates, most often due to circumstances beyond our control.

Lunch Times

As of Monday 16th February, (Week 4) we will be moving our lunch period back about 30 minutes. Our present day structure creates numerous timetabling issues with unproductive periods of time for many classes before and after lunch.

This will also increase the amount of learning time we have before the major lunch break which is a far more effective learning period than the ‘long’ afternoon session, when students are exhausted after playing at lunch time.

Parent Information Evening

We will be holding a Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 18th February.

Parents are invited to join us for approximately an hour per session to be introduced to teaching teams, to hear about year level programs and activities and to visit classes to learn about routines specific to your child’s class.

Session times

6pm to 7pm
Kindergarten - meet in K Rose’s room
Years 3 and 4 - meet in the Library
7.10pm to 8.10pm
Years 1 and 2 - meet in the Hall
Years 5 and 6 - meet in the Library

After an introduction session of approximately 20 minutes parents will move to individual classrooms.
Please Note: This is not a time for an indepth interview about your child’s needs or learning. This is general information about the 2015 school year, class routines and expectations and an opportunity for teachers and parents to meet.

Parent Teacher Interviews

We have set aside time during the last week of this term – Monday 30th March and Tuesday 31st March for our formal Teacher Parent interviews. This will be instead of the mid year interviews.

It is our hope that holding interviews earlier in the year we will together be able to raise issues and address them in a much more timely manner.

P&C Meetings

P&C Meetings are held in the school Staffroom at 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month. All are most welcome.

It was terrific to see some new faces at our first P&C meeting on Tuesday night. Our next P&C meeting, 3rd March, will include our Annual General Meeting where new office bearers will be elected.

We would love to see more of our community become involved.

Canteen

Our canteen is a P&C run endeavour to service the families and students of Blacktown South Public School. Mrs Rhonda Fogg our canteen manager is always looking for willing volunteers to help in the canteen.

House Captains for 2015

Congratulations to the following students – our Senior and Junior House Captains for 2015.

Balsdon
Senior - Adrian Zay - Chlorese Ocampo
Junior - Harrison Burgess - Tanisha Chowdhury

Dennis
Senior - Corey Handley - Jade Hookey
Junior - Nabil Koko - Cynthia Win

Moore
Senior - Ahmed Maki - Nashita Tahsin
Junior - Cooper Rauhihi - Kayla Gwilliam

Nichols
Senior - Simon El-Rassi - Jessika Nash
Junior - Jordan Canoy - Jilwa Rawi

Parking Around the School

I appreciate how difficult it is for many parents to find parking around our school especially in the afternoon when picking students up.

For the sake of our neighbours please do not park in or across driveways. Also please be aware that Council have informed us that traffic wardens will be in the area booking people parking in ‘No Stopping Zones’.

Thank you for your help in this area.

Applying for Leave from School

There have been changes made to applying for leave. If you are planning on taking a family holiday during the school term, you will need to obtain an Application for Leave form from the office. This is to ensure we are aware that your child will be absent from school for a period of time.

There will no longer be a certificate sent home when the leave is granted.

Please note that this leave will now be recorded in your child’s attendance record.

Mr Andrew Bowmer
Principal

POP - Parent Payments On-line

Parents and caregivers are able to pay school fees, camp fees, excursion money, etc online. This will enable you to pay securely from home through Westpac Bank and not have to worry about sending money to school with your child. You simply log onto the school’s website click on the $link and you are directed to the Westpac Bank Secure Online Banking site.

We still request that fundraising, sport and mufti day money be brought in by your child as these small amounts would be too hard to ‘track’ with online payments.

P & C, K-6 and Clothing Pool WILL NOT be linked to POP, amounts owing to these organisations will have to be paid for in cash.

This is a new system and we will endeavour to make it as smooth a learning process for all concerned (you and us!!) as possible.

We have attached a link for you to look to see how easy the process is.

Mrs Dobbie
School Admin Manager

Canteen

Welcome back everyone. We hope all our families had a great holiday.

We are a P&C run canteen and if any parents or grandparents are able to spare one day a month volunteering at the canteen, please call in or send a note to the Canteen. Lunch, tea and coffee are provided.

Our helpers for the next two weeks of term 4 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Helper</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9th February</td>
<td>Sujatha Bhasker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th February</td>
<td>Jean Loveday</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11th February</td>
<td>Gowri Sutharsanan</td>
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<td>Thursday 12th February</td>
<td>Evangeline Thagazjah</td>
</tr>
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<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>Kylie Noobergen</td>
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<td>Monday 16th February</td>
<td>Kim Jeffreys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th February</td>
<td>Stacey Broadfoot</td>
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Mrs R Fogg  
Canteen Supervisor

K-6 CLUB

Welcome to the New Year!

We welcome our new kindy parents and any new parents to the school.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us at our first K-6 Club Meeting on Friday 6th February commencing at 9.30 am in the Before and Aftercare Building. Come along to find out what will be happening in the year and meet some other parents. Coffee and cake will be provided.

Hope to see some new parents at our meeting.

Kerrie Barton  
K-6 Club President

BLACKTOWN SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>K-6 Club Meeting held in the Before and Aftercare Centre commencing at 9.30 am.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>Canteen Banana Smoothie Day</td>
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<td>Year 4 Milo Cricket Skills Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet the Teacher/Parent Information Night</td>
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<td>3-6 Assembly</td>
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<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>SRC Induction Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 4 Milo Cricket Skills Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>K-2 Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
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Please click below for any notes that have gone home in the past fortnight that you might have missed: