PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Week 6.

BOYS EDUCATION CLASS

This year we have formed a Stage 3 (Year 5 and 6) boys education class. This is not a behaviour class. A select number of boys were offered a place. The aim of this class is to provide a teaching environment that is specifically suited to the way boys learn. The main goals of this class: academic success, engagement, social interaction. Research states that boys require kinesthetic, visual, practical approaches to learning/approaches that emphasise physical movement and use spatial concepts. The class is supported by Mr Martin.

CARE PACKAGES—RETURN LETTERS

Last year our SRC and the whole school did a wonderful job collecting items to send to our soldiers overseas. The students and staff of Metella Road PS are very proud our serving soldiers and wanted to say thank you. The Care Packages were sent and we have now received wonderful letters of thanks from our soldiers. These wonderful letters of thanks have been included in this newsletter.

PARENT CYBER SAFETY WORKSHOP

A reminder that this Wednesday parents are invited to attend a free Cyber Safety Workshop at Marayong Public School, Davis Rd Blacktown. There will be two workshops at 10.00am and 6.30pm. Constable John Bollard will be discussing the risks and pitfalls of social media, and also provide parents with strategies to help protect our children.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS—BOOKING ONLINE

Parents will be able to book interview times for Parent Teacher interviews for Term 1 online. Please keep an eye out for information that will be coming home showing you how to make your booking.

PHOTO DAY

On Tuesday, 12 March we will be having our Photo Day. Please ensure on this day your children wear their usually perfect school summer uniform and hair extra neatly brushed with plenty of smiles at the ready! Please remember to bring your photo envelope on the day. If your child has not bought home a photo envelope please contact the school before Photo Day. Do NOT send in before Photo Day. Family envelopes are available from the Office.

PRINCIPAL’S DISTINCTION AWARD

Alisha S 5-6G  Pavanitha N 5-6G
READING WITH YOUR CHILD AT HOME

When your kids see you reading and writing in everyday life – whether reading for pleasure, sharing a story with them or making a shopping list – it teaches them that they are useful skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your kids with reading.


REMOVING HEAD LICE AND NITS

Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they’re not dangerous. Here’s everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits.


GOOD NUMBER SENSE

Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don’t add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them.


ESSAY PLANNING

Kids often rush headlong into essay writing tasks without thinking through what is required. Effective essay planning can involve brainstorming, mind-mapping, and organising notes depending on the question and type of response required. These factsheets explain everything.


HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting [australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus](http://australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus) and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2013

Thank you to all staff, parents and volunteers for your efforts at our recent swimming carnival. It was a busy, yet successful day. I know some students and parents were disappointed that novelties were missed and we are looking into other options for next year. We do need to ensure all decisions fall within the department guidelines for swimming carnivals and water activities.

**Winners!**

Congratulations to Brigalow for finishing in 1st place, ahead of Kurrajong, Myall and Wandoor.

**School Records Broken**

Some major recognition needs to go to this year’s super fish, Aleksa B. Aleksa successfully broke 4 school records on the day. The 1st record was in the 100m Freestyle. The old record was 1.15.93 set way back in 1989. Aleksa’s new record is 1.09.34 The second record was in the 50m 11yrs Freestyle. The old record of 36.39 was set even further back in 1981! Aleksa’s new record is 30.62 The 3rd record to fall on the day was in the 50m 11yrs Backstroke. The old record was set in 2006 and was 48.10 Aleksa’s new record is 38.75 The final record for the day was in the 50m 11yrs Butterfly. The old record was set only a few years ago in 2009 and was 47.50 Aleksa’s new record is 35.12

**District Swimming**

Congratulations Aleksa on a fine swimming performance. I wish you and our entire District Swimming team all the best for your races at the District Carnival to be held on Wednesday 6 March at Blacktown Aquatic Centre.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

The NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2013 begins Week 6 of Term 1. An information session for students will be announced once the school has completed registration and will be held in the library at lunch time where students will be shown how to record the books they are reading and how to access their online reading logs. Students will be able to register the books they have read from home using their DET portal. All Premier’s Reading Challenge books in the school library have a PRC sticker and book registration number attached to the cover of the book. The PRC books are broken down into grade categories/level of reading difficulty for K-2, 3-4, 5-6, and for more advanced readers 7-9. K-2 students will need to read 30 books, 3-6 students will need to read 20 books. Information for parents is available in the library or you can access The Premier’s Reading Challenge webpage at [https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html](https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html).

P & C NEWS

The Next P & C meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 March at 7.30pm in the Staff Room.
To everyone in 4P (2012),

My name is Leneice and I am currently serving in Afghanistan with the Australian Army. Today I was lucky enough to receive the parcel you guys put together for a female soldier, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time out and putting that together for me. I have been in country for 5 months now, away from my husband and my three children. My eldest son is in grade 3 in Darwin, so I appreciate what you guys have done for me. Everything in the parcel is just what I needed, and I will share the gifts with my room mates.

I have been in the Army for 17 years and when I am at home I live in Darwin. I have 2 months left here in Afghanistan and I am looking forward to seeing my family again. My job here is very important and I make sure our soldiers are safe from any threats outside of our Army base. I have enjoyed my time in Afghanistan and hopefully the people of Afghanistan appreciate our help as well.

Thank you all once again for my package it is very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Warrant Officer Leneice C.
BLACKTOWN BOYS’ HIGH SCHOOL

cordially invites

Years 5 and 6
Parents and sons
to the
Year 7 2014
Information Evening

on
Wednesday, 6 March, 2013
at
6.00pm – 7.00pm

Blacktown Boys’ High School Library
Fifth Avenue
Blacktown

• Explore the best choice for your son’s future.

• Consider the benefits of a boys’ school, which values learning, respect and safety.

• Gifted and Talented Program information available.

• Selective High School admission test information. (Blacktown Boys’ is a partly selective high school)

• Meet and mingle with teachers, staff and other students.

For further information please contact the school:
Phone: 9622 1588 Fax: 9831 2282
Email: blacktownbsh.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.blacktownbsh.schools.nsw.edu.au

We look forward to seeing you.

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Children’s Art Classes

Fun and Creative classes for Children
Weekly and school holiday workshops

Contact Linda
9688 1890

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Drama Classes

Baulkham Hills, Penrith, Ingleburn, Penrith

Students have appeared in Home & Away, Neighbours, Blue Water High, Underbelly, The Great Gatsby, Wolverine, other feature films, TV series, TV commercials & much more...

Tel: 02 9211 6366 www.sydneytalentco.com.au
e-mail: sydneytalentco@tpg.com.au

SEVEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN NIGHT 2013

Wednesday 13th March
7.00pm – 9.00pm

PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO COME ALONG AND MEET STAFF AND DISCOVER THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AT SEVEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL.

The information session will cover...

• Self SELECT Classes
• Our course and subject structures
• Catering for the full range of student abilities
• Technologies and resources available to students
• Opportunities for students outside the classroom
• Being part of the Ninebo Collegiate

THEN

Tour the School

• Technology and Applied Sciences
• English
• History / Geography
• Mathematics
• Science
• Music
• HSC
• Visual Arts

ENQUIRIES
Greg Johnstone - Principal
PHONE – 9682 3920