Important Dates

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Tuesday 21 April</td>
<td>Students return to school</td>
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<td>Friday 24 April</td>
<td>3-6 Cross Country Carnival</td>
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<td>5-7 May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<td>12-14 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN - Years 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>Wednesday 13 May</td>
<td>Year 1 Excursion</td>
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<td>Tuesday 19 May</td>
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<td>Monday 25 May</td>
<td>Kindergarten Excursion</td>
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<td>K-6 School Photographs</td>
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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a really eventful first term with many exciting events. I am very proud of our students’ achievements both at school and within the general community. I take this opportunity to thank staff, students and the community for their efforts throughout the term. Term 1 has been an extremely busy and productive term. Our teachers have established a strong platform from which your children will grow and develop throughout the year. I hope that families have a safe and restful holiday enjoying the company of loved ones.

Parents, it is very important that you encourage your child to read and to talk to you about what they have read every day during the break. That consistency will support and benefit your child in Term 2.

BSPS P&C AGM and 2015 Executive Committee

The P&C AGM was held on Tuesday 24 February. I thank all the parents who attended and became members. I take this opportunity to congratulate the following parents/community members elected into the Executive Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Rema Zreika</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Melanie Oueik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Nahla Ajaj</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Nouha Alameddine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Coordinator</td>
<td>Souha Alameddine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform Shop Coordinator</td>
<td>Melanie Oueik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canteen Coordinator</td>
<td>Lyn Connelly</td>
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School hours for students

There was an improvement with students arriving at school on time and ready to learn throughout Term 1. I thank parents for their effort and support in this area. It is important to note that students must not arrive at school before 8:30am. This is a safety issue. Teachers are on duty from 8:30am. In addition, students are dismissed at 2:45pm. Please ensure that you are on time to collect your child(ren) in the afternoon. Keep up the great work in Term 2 - very much appreciated by all staff.
Arranging a meeting with a teacher

Our teachers are committed to building a strong relationship with parents to ensure all students achieve to their potential. If you would like to speak to a teacher please remember to contact the school office to make a request for an appointment. This is to ensure that you are provided with adequate time to discuss all relevant matters. As you can appreciate, it is not appropriate for teachers to have conversations with parents when settling their students in the morning or dismissing them in the afternoon.

Canteen News

Our canteen is coordinated by volunteers who donate their time to support Blaxcell Street Public School. These wonderful helpers are dedicated parents, former parents and community members who commit many hours each week to provide a service to the students of our school. Please support them by ensuring that all hot lunch orders are completed before 9:00am each morning. Unfortunately, only sandwiches will be available to order after 9:00am.

Please note that from Term 2 Nutella/Hazelnut spreads will no longer be available at the canteen.

School Uniform

With the cooler weather it is important to ensure that your child continues to wear full school uniform each day. We often receive comments from the general public about how well presented our students are in their school uniform. Plain black shoes should be worn as part of the school uniform with the exception being days when your child participates in sports activities.

Please ensure your child has plain black shoes for the start of Term 2. I thank parents for supporting the uniform policy.

Community Access Policy

Accompanying this newsletter is our Community Access Policy. This policy will promote mutual respect for all stakeholders and a harmonious, nurturing and caring environment in which we can grow and learn in partnership.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

Parents are responsible for:
- enrolling their children of compulsory school age in a government or registered non-government school or registering them with the Board of Studies for home schooling
- ensuring that their children attend school regularly
- explaining the absences of their children from school promptly to the school
- taking measures to resolve attendance issues involving their children.

School staff are responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by:
- providing a caring teaching and learning environment which fosters students’ sense of belonging to the school community
- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise
- providing clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.

Please support the school in the area of student attendance. In addition, please ensure that your child(ren) arrive at school between 8:30-8:57 each morning. Arriving late may negatively impact the development and achievement of your child(ren). Again, I thank you for the continued support with attendance.

Regards,

Mr Zahra
Principal
The Great Debate

On Friday 27th March, Dymocks Children’s Charity held their annual ‘Great Debate’ event at the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney. This large scale, hugely successful event takes place in order to raise funds for the Book Bank initiative, which provides children at a number of Australian schools – including Blaxcell Street – with a new book each term.

Four members of the Team of Student Leaders were lucky enough to have the opportunity to attend this event to talk on stage to over 400 people about their participation in the Book Bank program. They were interviewed on stage by Adam Spencer which was very exciting. Each student spoke with confidence and the crowd were very impressed. A huge congratulations to Rabiha Etri, Kristina Hua, Ayesha Mustafa Kamal and Matthew Lam who did such a fantastic job on the night. They were lucky enough to take home a gift bag containing a number of new novels from Dymocks!

Miss Darragh
Harmony Day

On the 19th of March 2015, Blaxcell Street Public School celebrated Harmony Day. The students looked fantastic in their orange clothes! Classes were paired up and the students participated in fun activities that helped build great relationships and a harmonious spirit at our school. The assembly was a great success, with the honour of our guest speaker Senior Constable Mohomad Kheir who delivered a speech about the importance of harmony in our community.

Mrs Ibrahim and Ms El Moussawel
On Wednesday 4th March, 2015, nine members of the 2015 Team of Student Leaders attended the GRIP Leadership Conference at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre. During the conference, they discovered what it means to be a leader and how to get the most out of their time as school leaders at Blaxcell Street Public School – how to make a difference in their school, stand up for themselves and others and make effective leadership plans. The day was also full of fun activities and games and our TSL members were able to network with student leaders from other schools.

These TSL members are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and behaviour on the day. I was very proud of the way they represented Blaxcell Street Public School at this large scale event!

*Miss Darragh, Year 6 OC Teacher*
2015 Swimming Carnival

On Thursday 26th February Miss King and Mrs Alca took a group of students to Granville pool to take part in the annual school Swimming Trials where Lutana took out the point score for first place on 128 points, closely followed by Inderwong, Alinga and Mulgara. After a successful day at the trials, a group of very talented swimmers represented our school at the Auburn Zone Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 4th March. The following students from Blaxcell Street Public School attended the carnival, Toby James, Roukayah Alfararjeh, Riley Webb, Jayden Lien-Le, Samiha Chaok, Tranchau Nguyen, Vivian Pham, David Kim, Renny Zeng, Eric Xia, Ahmed Alfararjeh, Nora El-Sayed Ahmed, Sarah Darwich, Mandy Shi, William Zhang, Jessie Wong, Ryan Tan and Jessica Xia. The boys and girls had a wonderful day and displayed outstanding sportsmanship, achieving great results.

Overall, Blaxcell Street came second in the point score against other schools in the area. Jessie Wong is the 11 years girls’ Auburn Zone champion, while Jessica Xia came second in the race for the Senior girls’ champion. In the boys events, Eric Xia came second in the race for the Junior boys’ champion and Ryan Tan second in the Senior boys’. Good Luck to the following students who have been chosen to represent the Auburn Zone Team at the Regional Swimming Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre: Jessie Wong, Renny Zeng, Eric Xia, Vivian Pham, Roukayah Alfararjeh, William Zhang, Jessica Xia, Nora El-Sayed Ahmed, Sarah Darwich, Ryan Tan and Ahmed Alfararjeh.

Blaxcell Street Public School’s After School Learning Centre

Blaxcell Street Public School’s After School Learning Centre will commence operation again as of Term 2, Week 3. This is a FREE program. The After School Learning Centre will provide assistance for students and their parents who are experiencing difficulty with weekly classroom work and home learning. Parents and students will also be given the opportunity to utilise the school’s computers and internet to complete any assignments or home learning they may need to assist them. **60 students** across years 1 – 6 will be accepted to participate in this program. This program is designed to assist students who experience difficulty completing their home and school work; however, all students are invited to apply for a position. This is not a tutoring centre.

The After School Learning Centre will operate on:

**Thursdays from 2:45pm – 3:45pm for students in Years 4-6** - parent/guardian attendance is optional. This session will be held in the 3-6 Computer Lab.

**Thursdays from 3:00pm – 3:45pm for students in Years 1-3** – a parent/guardian **MUST** attend with them. This session will be held in the School Library.

If you want your child to participate in this program, you must return the note to the front office by 3pm Thursday 2nd April, 2015.

If your child is accepted, you will be notified in writing in Week 2 of Term 2.

Mr D. Hall
Program Coordinator
Term 1 Chess Report

On Monday 23rd March 2015, fourteen year 5 and 6 students from Blaxcell Street represented their school in an Interschool Chess Challenge with the Sydney Academy of Chess. This competition was hosted in our school hall. It was fantastic to see an increase in numbers of participants compared to last year. This year, we had over 60 students entered from a large number of different primary schools in Sydney. Our chess players were enthusiastic and gave the competition their best shot, achieving some outstanding results.

Well done Blaxcell Street Public School!

1st - Summer Hill Public School
2nd - Canley Vale Public School
3rd - Blaxcell Street Public School

A special mention to Ryan Tan from 6D who was the 8th top player out of a total of 65 players on the day. Ryan took home a medal for his achievements. Congratulations Ryan!

Well done to the following students who represented our school:

Ryan Tan, Balaji Mayuran, Renny Zeng, Aarya Phansalkar, Andrew King, Daniel Khuu, Moksh Bhatia, William Tang, Anusree Natarajan, Mandy Shi, Chun Yip Man, Oliver Huang, Glen Kafrushy and Ahmed Al Fararjeh. 😊

Miss Darragh, Chess Coordinator
Year 2 – Incursion

Zoo Mobile

On Wednesday 25th February, all the lucky boys and girls and teachers from Year 2 had the opportunity to meet and handle some animals from the mobile zoo.

Students were able to get up close and personal with a variety of animals. We were able to look and touch lizards, snakes, green frogs, turtles, a baby possum and large stick insects. We also learnt about their habitats and their likes and dislikes. The highlight of the afternoon was when the keepers gave the Year 2 teachers some stick insect eggs to raise. We had a great time!
Year 6 Camp

On the 16th, 17th and 18th of March 2015, Year 6 went to the Narrabeen Sports and Recreational Camp.

At first, Year 6 was divided into colour groups and each of these groups had different activities at different times. The sports included abseiling, kayaking, ropes course (this included balancing on the ropes and the flying fox), rock climbing, and a balancing course and initiatives. Children participated and enjoyed all the activities, most of which they were not used to. They were encouraged to step out of their comfort zone!

During the three day period, groups of approximately 12 people were assigned to their own lodge. They had a decent breakfast, lunch, dinner, and supper. Also children had jobs to do, such as scullery and getting tables ready for people to use.

During the two nights, Year 6 had night activities where everyone was involved, including the Year 6 teachers. All the activities were enjoyable and everyone was pumped for this event in the night. After the activities everyone looked forward to the tasty supper which included cookies and chocolate milk.

We had the best time at Narrabeen – we didn’t want to come home! 😊

By Kristina Hua
University of Wollongong

Gifted and Talented Workshops

During the school holidays, two members of the Year 6 OC class – Daniel and Balaji – attended workshops at the University of Wollongong for two days. They were nominated for specific workshops according to their interests and areas of strength. Both boys thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and gained a wide range of new knowledge and skills. Here are their personal accounts of their days at the University of Wollongong!

- Miss Darragh, Year 6 OC Teacher

Just walking, I felt a pang of mixed emotions including fear, nervousness and excitement. After settling down into a hall, the fact that I was one of three boys out of fourteen students was quite intimidating!

We were then led to a room at the university and the two instructors tried to get us to know each other through two different activities. These involved introducing ourselves and playing a name game. After talking about debating, we were put into pairs. We had seven mini-debates, and were then placed into groups of 3 and 4. We had an hour to prepare for our debates, with a lunch break after. Our team won the debate! They say time flies when you’re having fun – I couldn’t agree more.

The next day, after making conversation, we played a game similar to Pictionary, but with speaking instead of drawing. After lunch, we had yet another debate which was harder than the one from the day before. The topic was ‘It’s better to be different than to conform’. I was in the negative team and unfortunately we lost. After a few more little games, time flew and before I knew it, it was time to go home.

- Daniel Khuu 6D – ‘Debating’ Workshop Participant

When I first arrived at UOW, I was exciting about all the fun things I was going to learn. When I go t to the classroom, the first thing I learned was that the Pascal’s Triangle unintentionally has the Fibonacci sequence. After that, we learned how to step through a piece of paper and make two taped together circles into a square. We also made a ‘hexaflexagon’ which is a hexagon with a secret face concealed inside!

On the second day, I learned about a number called Phi – 1.618. Using the number, you can prove that humans are mathematically related to snails in two ways. Then we studied Pythagoras Theorem. Finally, we played a game relating to maths with buzzers in which my team scored third place.

- Balaji Mayuran 6D – ‘Mathematics for the Absurd’ Workshop Participant.
Come to our FREE Fruit & Veg Sense Workshop

Date: Monday, 11\textsuperscript{th} May
Time: 9:10am until 10:40am
Venue: Blaxcell Street Public School

Did you know that eating enough fruit and vegetables all their lives can help protect children against diseases, including some forms of cancer? This \textbf{free workshop} run by Cancer Council NSW will show you how you can easily:

- Save time and money making healthy meals
- Learn clever ways to entice fussy eaters
- Get a free recipe book simply by attending

The \textit{Eat It To Beat It} program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well \& School Program.

\textbf{Don’t miss out} – registration is essential. To book your place please register no later than 6/5/15 by:

Completing and returning this slip to the school front office.

Your name:
Your contact number or email:

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