

Blackwell Public School

Newsletter

Friday, 22nd August 2025

Week 5 Term 3 - 2025

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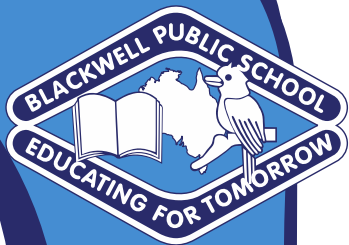
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL RESULTS

CHESS CLUB NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWS

Proud to be a member of our STePS Community. Learning on Darug Land.

58A Blackwell Avenue, St Clair NSW 2759 T: 02 9670 5080 blackwell-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

"Ignite The Potential" is an apt theme for Public Education Week 2025 as we look back over 40 years of education at Blackwell. We have celebrated success in many forms from academic, to the sporting arena and also in cultural pursuits. We are so lucky to have students who accept the challenge to often go beyond their comfort zone and attempt new tasks. We are also lucky to have staff who are prepared to support and mentor our students in so many areas and also incredibly lucky to have parent/community support in these diverse endeavours. Coming together enables our students to learn valuable life lessons, including resilience, teamwork and determination.

As I watch our amazing school operate, I realise we are building some wonderful Australian citizens who demonstrate the finest virtues and while I am desperately sad to leave, Blackwell will continue to thrive and grow.

'Thank you'

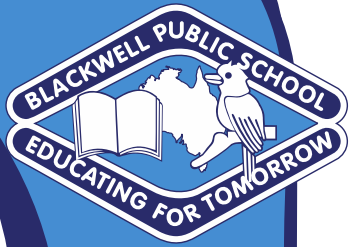
I have included a photo feast taken over the last few weeks as a testimony to "Blackwell's potential" in all its glory.

Thank you for celebrating the very best in public education.

The new principal to be appointed in the coming year will be indeed a very lucky person.

Public Education Week enables us to highlight the diversity of potential from directors, producers, actors, dancers, stagehands, Masters of Ceremonies, coaches and audiences who all act in their positions to support a common thread. I was so proud to watch young and old take a step outside their normal happens and embrace the unknown. I can only hope that I too will soon step outside my norm and embrace the unknown. If that is the case, then my time spent here has been priceless with so many lasting memories of you all.

Kris Hudswell
PRINCIPAL

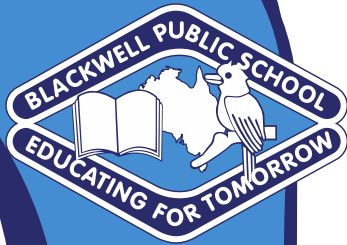


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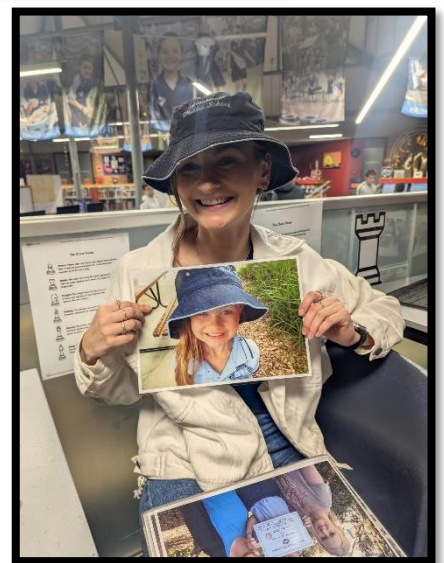
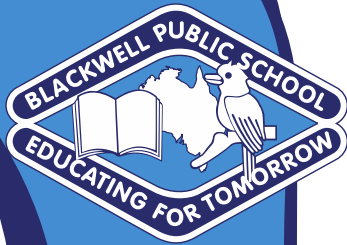
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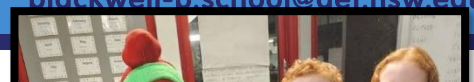
Proud to be a member of our **STePS Community**. Learning on Darug Land.

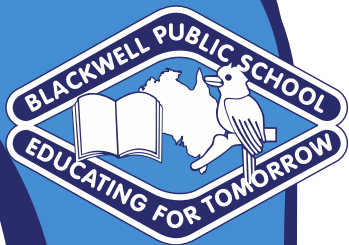
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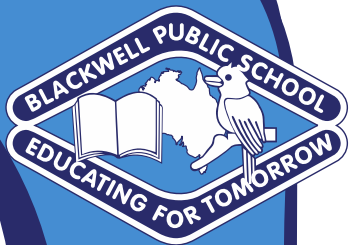




PRICIPAL AWARD WINNERS

PRINCIPAL AWARD WINNERS Monday, 4th August 2025

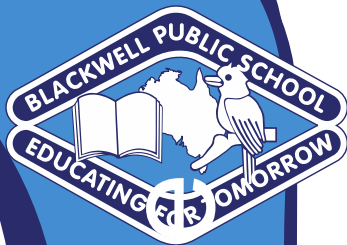
Class	Student
KB	Savanah E
KL	Kit O
KM	Isaac M
S1B	Edward J
S1D	Lucas D
S1M	David L
S1N	Nyla M
S1S	Pratiti P
S2A	Nixon B
S2F	Harlow E
S2M	Blair B
S2S	Mackenzie W
S2T	Allison J
S3B	Jordan V
S3CR	Aaliyah-Rose S
S3H	Daniyal Y
S3K	Zailee B
S3M	Kody I
S3W	Taahi K
MC Class	Umar W



SRC MEMBERS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS SEMESTER 2

Class	Student	Student
S1D	Ashton H	-
S1M	Denna O	Billy C
S1S	Josephine N	Zander O
S2A	Olivia S	Tiana R
S2F	Mila U	Lincoln C
S2M	Blair B	Bowen G
S2S	Shekinah T	Bailey S
S2T	Harper E	Benji M
S3B	Verity K	Seyit Y
S3CR	Alyce Z	Cohen J
S3H	Farah K	Lincoln P
S3K	Sophie F	Ellis V
S3M	Evie M	Brady H
S3W	Evie F	Hunter I
MC Class	Chayse E	-



Deputy Principals Message

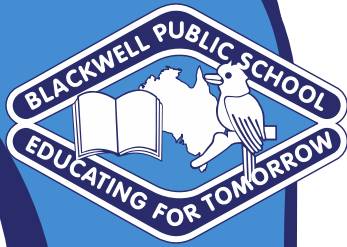
What is bullying?

Bullying is when people **repeatedly and intentionally** use words or actions against someone or a group of people to **cause distress and risk to their wellbeing**. These actions are usually done by people who have more influence or power over someone else, or who want to make someone else feel less powerful or helpless. Bullying is not the same as conflict between people (like having a fight) or disliking someone, even though people might bully each other because of conflict or dislike.

The sort of repeated behaviour that can be considered bullying includes:

- Keeping someone out of a group (online or offline)
- Acting in an unpleasant way near or towards someone
- Giving nasty looks, making rude gestures, calling names, being rude and impolite, and constantly negative teasing.
- Spreading rumours or lies, or misrepresenting someone (i.e. using their Facebook account to post messages as if it were them)
- Mucking about that goes too far
- Harassing someone based on their race, sex, religion, gender or a disability
- Intentionally and repeatedly hurting someone physically
- Intentionally stalking someone
- Taking advantage of any power over someone else like a Prefect or a Student Representative.

Bullying can happen anywhere. It can be in schools, at home, at work, in online social spaces, via text messaging or via email. It can be physical, verbal, emotional, and it also includes messages, public statements and behaviour online intended to cause distress or harm (also known as [cyberbullying](#)). But no matter what form bullying takes, the results can be the same: severe distress and pain for the person being bullied.



It is very important that teachers are aware of situations like the above before it goes too far. Often we will hear from students and parents who have said that their child has been bullied for the entire year and nothing has been done. Neither the student nor parent had let the teachers or school know. The only way we can STOP bullying is if we know about it.

As a school we cannot make students play with other students if they don't want to and if their parents have asked for this to happen. Sometimes students make mature choices to move away from friendships because they have had enough of the friendship for whatever reason. This is not bullying, this is making a mature decision.

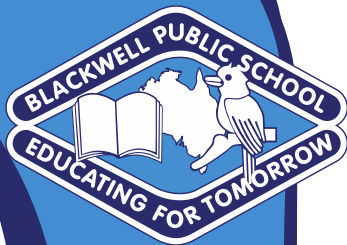
FAREWELL To Mrs Hudswell

After 33 years of friendship, leadership, and unwavering dedication, saying goodbye to Mrs Hudswell feels incredibly difficult. She has not only been a remarkable principal but also a trusted friend and mentor. The bond we've built over the years is something truly special—filled with shared challenges, victories, laughter, and growth.

As you step into this next chapter, know that your presence, wisdom, and warmth will be deeply missed. Thank you for everything. Mrs Hudswell leaves behind a legacy that will be remembered and cherished for years to come.

Wishing Mrs Hudswell all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

Rod Woolard
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



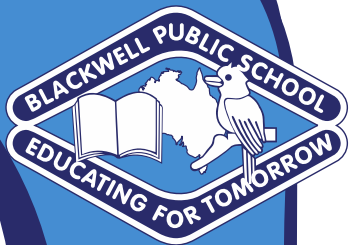
ACP & I Message

We hope you had a restful break! Just a friendly reminder about reading!

Reading has always been an important skill. In our modern world it is more important than ever. Children learn about the importance of reading as they watch family members use reading and writing for everyday purposes. Reading with your child at home will help your child in all learning areas of school. Children see you reading and writing in everyday life – reading for pleasure, sharing a story with your child, using a recipe, making a shopping list, writing a birthday card or reading street signs. This teaches them that reading and writing are useful skills in today's world. Often parents are asked by the school to listen to their child read at home. It's a good way of supporting your child's reading. Books can be borrowed from your school library each week and you can access St Clair's library for free.

What can you do at home to help?

- Be yourself.
- Involve children in everyday conversations.
- Read aloud to children. It helps them to learn the language of books and will encourage them to enjoy books and reading.
- Talk about books, read together and make reading an enjoyable, shared activity.
- Make sure there is a wide range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction.
- It is important to read to your child in your home language if your first language is not English. Experience shows that using your home language will help your child to learn to read in English.
- Try not to let television intrude on reading time. Make a special time for reading with your child, away from interruption.
- Listen to your child every day, even for a short time.
- Give books as treats and presents.



Hints for listening to your child read:

- Before reading, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about.
- During reading, discuss what has been read up to that point, and imagine what will happen next time.
- After reading is finished, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures.
- When reading a harder book together, take turns. Beginning readers can read the repetitive parts and more experienced readers can read a paragraph or a page.

On finding an unknown word:

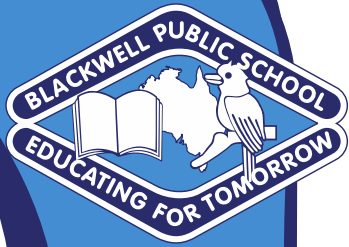
Pause to give your child time to work out the word.

Prompt – go back to the beginning of the sentence or read past the difficult word to the end of the sentence. Look for a clue in the picture or the words. Look at the first letter and think about what the words could be – ask “Does this make sense?” Try to sound out the word, if necessary, tell your child the word.

Praise your child for trying even if mistakes are made.

What to read and do:

- Tell and re-tell stories of all kinds including favourite stories, fairy tales, movie plots, local news items and family history.
- Play games such as “I spy... something beginning with d, that is the colour...starts with the sound ‘c’ (stating the sound)”.
- Ask your child to read out simple recipes while you cook together.
- Read comics, magazines, short stories, poems and rhymes, including nursery rhymes.

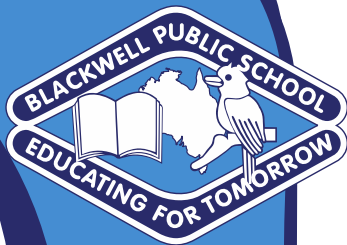


- Do crosswords & other word puzzles together.
- Look at letterbox leaflets together.
- Read directions and signs when driving and shopping.
- Read and write notes and letters to family members.
- Play board games together and read the rules.

Please remember to:

- Discuss the meaning of stories and words.
- Encourage your child to read anywhere and at any time.
- Let your child see you enjoy reading.
- Visit and use a library near you. Borrow books for yourself as well as your child.
- Talk to your child's classroom teacher or the principal for further help and advice.
- Enjoy reading – it should be fun

Mrs Sutcliffe & Mrs Hancock
APC&I



P & C NEWS

Thank you for your support during our concert week!

We raised over \$1800 - that's a lot of popcorn

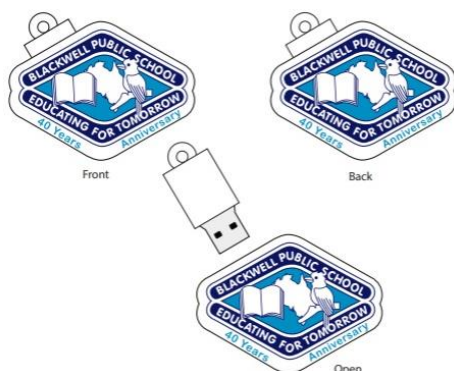


There will be a Mufti Day on Friday, 29th August to help raise money for Father's Day gifts and our Father's Day stall is coming up on Wednesday, 3rd September - we are looking for volunteers to help on this day. Please email jade.bell12@det.nsw.edu.au

We are currently selling Blackwell 40th Anniversary items.

We have a USB, a travel mug and a key ring!

USB \$5



Keyring \$5

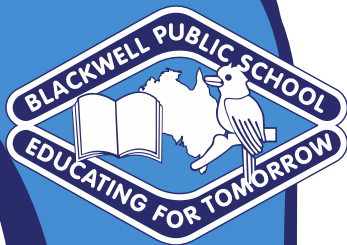


Travel Mug \$10



You can purchase these from the front office with CASH only!

P&C PRESIDENT



OFFICE NEWS - 2025 INFORMATION

2025 OFFICE NEWS

A reminder that our school does not send out paper notes. Everything can be found in the Sentral Parent Portal. It is extremely important that you are a registered user. If you need any help in doing so, please reach out to us.



If you have any queries regarding registering for Sentral for Parents, please email us on:

blackwell-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

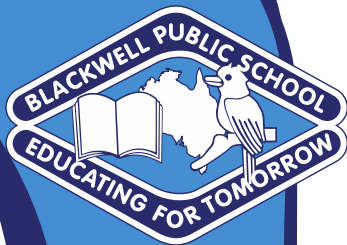
2025 SCHOOL PACKS

Please pay online through the Sentral Parent portal or payment in cash can be made to the office if preferred.

SCHOOL PACKS 2025
\$50 PER STUDENT



School packs include all classroom stationery, art supplies, computer software, incursions and more



MEDICAL

Thank you to those families that have supplied us with their children's medication.

We still have several students that have not returned medication for 2025, particularly asthma inhalers, spacers, antihistamines and up to date action plans. It is important that we have them on hand and would appreciate your assistance in this matter.

LOST PROPERTY

We are already seeing a large amount of lost property accumulate. Please label **EVERYTHING** with your child's name! It makes it a lot easier to find rightful owners!

LATE & EARLY LEAVERS

If your child is arriving after the 9am bell time they are required to attend the Front Office for a late note. They should be accompanied by a parent / carer for an explanation other wise the absence will be marked unjustified.

If you need to collect your child prior to 3pm, a parent or authorised person will need to come to the Front Office to obtain an early leaver slip. We will call the student to the office upon your arrival.

Friday Fun Run Winners

Term 3

Week 1

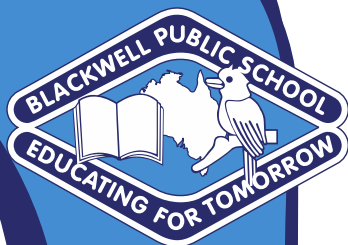
Shekinah – S2S and Kit - KL

Week 2

Charlotte -KL and Kahlán – S3W

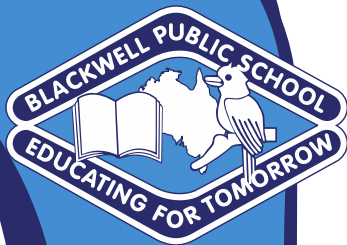
Week 3

Shekinah – S2S and Frankie – S2F



UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTIVITY	WHO	DATE	DUE	COST
PSSA Touch Knockout Comp	Selected students	27 th August	ASAP	N/A
BMND Festival	Selected Students	28 th August	N/A	N/A
District Athletics	Selected Students	4 th September	29 th August	\$5.00
Netball NSW Schools Cup	Selected students	3 rd September	29 th August	N/A
Longneck Lagoon Leadership Day	Semester 2 SRC Reps & House Leaders	11 th September	4 th September	\$20.00
Ranger Jamie Tours Push & Pull Science	Stage 1	16 th September	1 st September	\$40.00
Responsible Pet Education Program	Kindy, Stage 1 & MCM	19 th September	12 th September	N/A
Stage 2 Yarramundi Camp	Year 3 & 4	18 th to 19 th September	Balance 26 th August	\$160
Stage 2 & 3 Dance Sport	Selected Students	31 st October	5 th September	N/A
Stage 3 Canberra Camp	Year 5 & 6	26 to 28 th November	Balance 15 th October	\$280



CANTEEN NEWS

KOOKABURRAS KITCHEN

Thank you to everyone that supports our school canteen and thank you for your patience as we have moved our on-line ordering system to Sentral. We hope that some of the initial teething problems we have experienced will continue to improve the process.

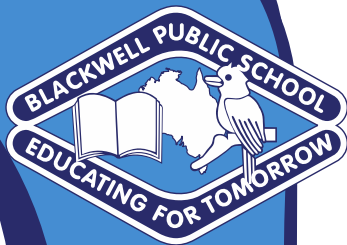
Canteen
on
Mobile



student
pay+

We currently have a lot of students coming to the canteen with either no money or small coins. Could you please have a chat with your children especially our new kinders and explain that they do require money to purchase from the Canteen. It would really assist us so we are not disappointing the students.

Julie Patrizi and Canteen Staff



SUPPORT UNIT NEWS

SUPPORT UNIT NEWS

We have had an exciting time in the Support Unit classes, MCB, MCD and MCM. We have been taking part in all of the Whole School events such as the Athletics Carnival, where 5 of our students attended the main carnival and very successfully took part in many of the track and field events alongside their mainstream friends. In addition, those students who stayed at school took part in an "indoor athletics" that replicated many of the events at the main carnival, including the frisbee discus, shot put with rubber chickens and indoor sprint relays.

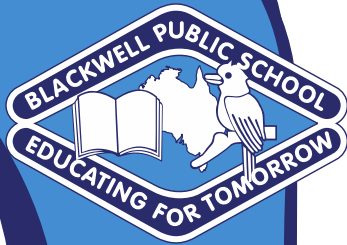
We also had a superb group of dancers take part in the school Concert. It was clear from their polished performance how much rehearsal and practice they have put in. Based on Umar's passion for Michael Jackson, we must give special thanks to Ms Ghobrial and Ms Channels for their skill and passion.

As if that was not enough, we also celebrated our school's 40th Anniversary. At school we had a celebration party day with special activities and party games, notably pass the parcel, musical chairs and an impromptu game of balloon keepy-up (inspired by Bluey)

All in all, a fantastic and fantastically busy time.



**Take care,
Support Unit Teachers**



EARLY STAGE 1 NEWS

EARLY STAGE 1 NEWS

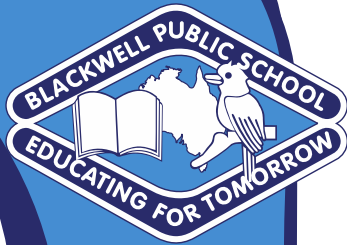
Early Stage 1 loved performing at the concert. We love the 80's!



Kindergarten Teachers

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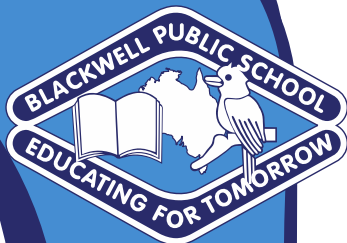
STAGE 1 NEWS

STAGE 1 NEWS

Stage 1 danced their hearts out at our school concert. We love the 80's!



Stage 1 Teachers



STAGE 2 NEWS

STAGE 2 NEWS

Stage 2 YARRAMUNDI CAMP

Our camp is fast approaching.

Depart : 8:30 am Thursday, 18th September 2025

Return : 3:00pm Friday, 19th September 2025

Soon a special link will be sent via the Sentral Parent Portal to complete an online registration for Yarramundi staff, this includes information regarding your child's **medical and dietary needs** to attend camp. The information provided by participants is obtained for the purpose of supporting Yarramundi staff to provide a high-quality program.

REMINDER: Final payment is due by Tuesday 26th August 2025.



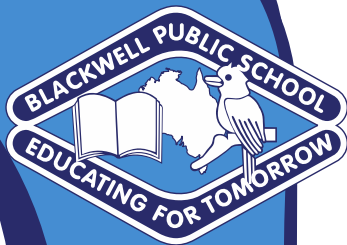
Stage 2 School Spelling Bee

Congratulations for an absolutely amazing job at our Spelling bee finals during the Premier's Spelling Bee School Finals.

Honourable to Mention - Alison, Marlee & Sajid



Stage 2 teachers



STAGE 3 NEWS

STAGE 3 NEWS

We have had a busy few weeks up in Stage 3.

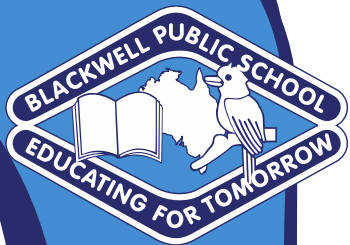
Our 80's concert items were a hit; we enjoyed celebrating Blackwell's 40th birthday, we shone on stage at the recent StePs Music Festival at Panthers and we have continued to excel in many sporting events.

I would like to thank parents for their continued support of our many events and also extend my appreciation to the teachers who generously give up their time to provide these valuable opportunities for our students.

Blackwell's **Athletics Carnival** was held at **Blair Oval** on **Friday 15th August**. What a successful day- we had! It was wonderful to see so many Stage 3 students competing and having a go in both the track and field events. Several records were broken too. The District Carnival will be held on Thursday 4th and Friday, 5th September at Blair Oval, St Marys. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all students the very best of luck moving into this next round.

Our class competitions for our annual **Public Speaking Competition** either started this week or for some classes next week. All students were required to plan, prepare and present a speech at class level. Two students from each class – one from Year 5 and one from Year 6 will then be selected to participate in the school finals which will be held in Week 8. Classroom teachers will notify the two finalists, and an invitation will be sent home for parents detailing the starting times of the finals if they would like to come and watch.

This Friday is the **Regional Premier's Spelling Bee**. We wish **Rikuto** from S3B all the very best as Blackwell's representative in the senior competition.

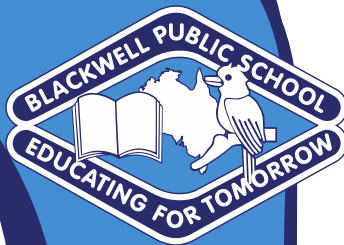


Just a reminder to please be vigilant with your child's use of **social media**. We have had a few incidents recently where students have posted images of other students or created content about other students **without consent**. When we know who has created these accounts, we have asked these posts to be removed and/or the account to be shut down. Unfortunately, we are not always able to determine the creators, and this is where we need your help to monitor your children's accounts and ask them to remove images, posts or content that could potentially be hurtful.

Students have also been reminded about the importance of keeping their account passwords confidential to ensure their online safety and security. While the use of social media and online gaming primarily occurs outside of school hours, any issues arising from these activities can impact student wellbeing and relationships within the school environment. We appreciate your ongoing support and vigilance in helping to maintain a safe and respectful online environment for all students.

Remember that the final instalment for our **school camp** is Wednesday, 15th October 2025 (Term 4 - Week 1). Payments for camp can be completed based on your family's financial situation. For example – you might like to make weekly or fortnightly payments or perhaps you prefer to pay the amount in one lump sum. It is whatever works best for you. Additional information about camp will be sent home closer to camp.

Teachers are already talking to our **Year 5 students** about the **leadership roles** and opportunities available for **2026**. We have positions as school captains, leaders, Junior AECG, house captains and library monitors. To be eligible for one of these roles, students need to **attend school regularly**, display **good manners**, **good thinking** and **good learning** and **show commitment** which means following through with tasks or activities. It is important that students interested in stepping up into these leadership roles display respectful behaviours and have had no more than 3 white or blue reflection slips in Year 5. Nominations for School Leaders will start next term.



At the end of the year, our **Year 6 students** run a special **Mini Fete** to help raise money for their farewell. During the mini-fete, students from K-5 participate in a variety of fun games or challenges that Year 6 run. As part of the fun, the Year 6 are asking for donations of old McDonald-like toys to be used as some of the prizes. If you have any of these type toys that you are willing to donate, Year 6 would be extremely grateful. They have started a collection box for donations between Miss Balloch's and Miss Harris's classroom.

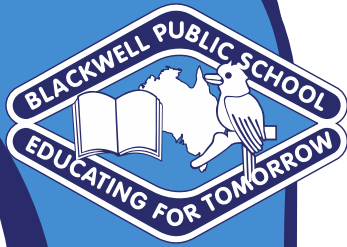


Idea: Happy Meal toys



Idea: Ooshies from Woolworths

At the end of the year, we hold a special graduation ceremony for our **Year 6 students** and their families. During this assembly, we share **3 photos** of the students' journeys from **baby/preschool age to Year 6** on the big screen. We would really appreciate if you could start to collate these photos to help us prepare for the slideshow.



If you have any photos of any school events like sports carnivals, Book Weeks, concerts, Mad Hair Days, excursions etc. that you are willing to share with us– that would be wonderful too.

Photos can be **emailed to your child's Year 6 teacher** or you could put the photos onto a **USB** which will be returned to you once the photos have been downloaded.

We like all photos to be **submitted by the end of Term 3**.

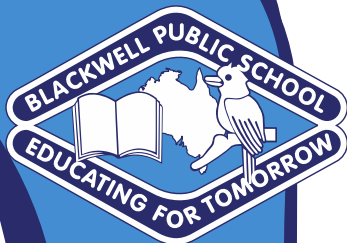


Miss Balloch

Attendance matters. If your child is away, please either respond to the SMS sent out by the school or send in a note with your child on their return.

Until next time
Take care

Kellie Balloch on behalf of the Stage 3 teachers



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL RESULTS

Blackwell Public School - Primary Athletics Carnival 2025

Last Friday's Athletics Carnival at Blair Oval was a whirlwind of energy, sportsmanship, and school pride. Our students brought their best to every event—cheering each other on, embracing challenges, and showing incredible determination across the track and field events.

One of the true highlights was watching so many students step outside their comfort zones to try something new. Some discovered hidden talents, others found newfound confidence and pride in their abilities. It was a day of growth, grit, and great fun. We're thrilled to celebrate several outstanding achievements:

On the Track:

Brady H (11 years) ran an impressive 27.19s in the 200m, surpassing the 2023 record of 27.44s.

Mila H (11 years) clocked 6:48.43 in the 1500m, shaving seconds off the 2023 record of 7:05.19.

Mia E broke the 2022 Senior's 1500m record of 7:13.65 with a stellar time of 6:16.94.

Chaise B took down the 2024 Senior's 1500m record of 6:25.28 with his new record time of 6:06.10.

In the Field Events:

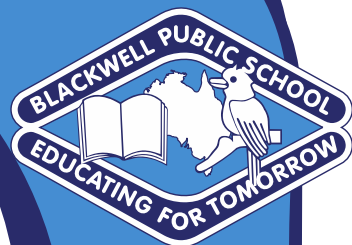
Sophie (11 years) smashed the 1997 Shot Put record of 8.03m with a powerful 9.47m throw—and she didn't stop there! Sophie also broke the 2000 Discus record of 19.41m, launching the Discus to an incredible 24.58m.

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive families who helped the day run smoothly and ensured every student felt encouraged and celebrated.

What's Next?

The High Jump competition will be held at school—keep an eye on our closed Facebook pages for updates.

The District Athletics Carnival will take place over two days later this term. Students who have qualified will receive a permission note via Sentral.



Blackwell Athletics Carnival Results 2025

Event : 100 metres

	Boys	Girls
8 years	1 st – Ashton H	1 st – Pratiti
	2 nd – <u>Paora L</u>	2 nd – Mila Z
	3 rd – <u>Heath W</u>	3 rd – Ella B
9 years	1 st – Braxton J	1 st – Marlie K
	2 nd – Oliver Mc	2 nd – <u>Ellimay P</u>
	3 rd – Jordan Mc	3 rd – Shekinah T
10 years	1 st – Nixon B	1 st – Aria F
	2 nd – Kobee L	2 nd – Mila U
	3 rd – Hendrix Pe	3 rd – Lucy C
11 years	1 st – Brady H	1 st – Mila H
	2 nd – Max K	2 nd – Wynonnah D
	3 rd – Ashton B	3 rd – Anam S
12 years	1 st – Nephi S	1 st – Mia E
	2 nd – Dion F	2 nd – Mariah G
	3 rd – Rikuto F	3 rd – Alia A
13 years	1 st – Tyler B	

Event : 1500 metres

	Boys	Girls
Jnr	1 st – Boden K	1 st – Aria F
	2 nd – Kobee L	2 nd – Marlie K
	3 rd – Zachary E	3 rd – <u>Lucy C</u>
11	1 st – Brady H	1 st – Mila H
	2 nd – Ashton B	2 nd – Aleka L
	3 rd – Jordan V	
Snr	1 st – Chaise B	1 st – Mia E
	2 nd – Ethan M	

Event : 800 metres

	Boys	Girls
Jnr	1 st – Zachary E	1 st – Aria F
	2 nd – Boden K	2 nd – Marlie K
	3 rd – Lincoln C	3 rd – Ava H
11	1 st – Ashton B	1 st – Mila H
	2 nd – Cohen J	2 nd – Sahra S
	3 rd – Max K	3 rd – Aleka L
Snr	1 st – Chaise B	1 st – Mia E
	2 nd – Max G	2 nd – Mariah G
	3 rd – Lachlan N	3 rd – <u>Alia A</u>

Event : 200 metres

	Boys	Girls
Jnr	1 st – Nixon B	1 st – Aria F
	2 nd – Kobee L	2 nd – Mila U

	3 rd – Boden K	3 rd – Marlie K
11	1 st – Brady H	1 st – Wynonnah D
	2 nd – Max K	2 nd – Mila H
	3 rd – Cooper G	3 rd – Anam S
Snr	1 st – Nephi S	1 st – Mia E
	2 nd – Rikuto F	2 nd – Mariah G
	3 rd – Ethan M	3 rd – Alia A

Event : Long Jump

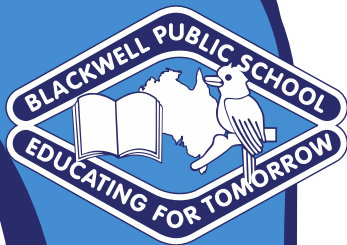
	Boys	Girls
Jnr	1 st – Nixon B	1 st – Shekinah T
	2 nd – Boden K	2 nd – Lucy C
	3 rd – Seyit Y	3 rd – Mila U
11 years	1 st – Max K	1 st – Mila H
	2 nd – Brady H	2 nd – Sahra S
	3 rd – Ashton B	3 rd – Anam S
Snr	1 st – Nephi S	1 st – Mia E
	2 nd – Dominic H	2 nd – Aaylah P
	3 rd – Ethan M	3 rd – Monique T

Event : Discus

	Boys	Girls
Jnr	1 st – Nixon B	1 st – Mackenzie F
	2 nd – Hendrix Pa	2 nd – Aria F
	3 rd – Vincent R	3 rd – Shekinah T
11 years	1 st – Max K	2 nd – <u>Rotonnya T</u>
	2 nd – Jake B	2 nd – Wynonnah D
	3 rd – Brady H	
Snr	1 st – Nephi S	1 st – Mia E
	2 nd – Ethan M	2 nd – Allirah K
	3 rd – Dion F	3 rd – Alia A

Event : Shot Put

	Boys	Girls
Jnr	1 st – Kobee L	1 st – Mackenzie F
	2 nd – Nixon B	2 nd – Silika L
	3 rd – Boden K	3 rd – Shekinah T
11 years	1 st – Lincoln P	1 st – Sophie
	2 nd – Max K	2 nd – <u>Rotonnya T</u>
	3 rd – Andrew B	3 rd – Havana O
Snr	1 st – Nephi S	1 st – Mia E
	2 nd – Flynn W	2 nd – <u>Ellauise M</u>
	3 rd – Shiv P	3 rd – Allirah K

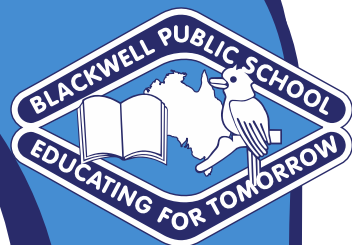


CHESS CLUB NEWS

CHESS CLUB NEWS

Eight senior Blackwell students recently completed in the Chess Championships at Clairgate PS. The day was a showcase of focus, strategy, and perseverance from all competitors from the STePs primary schools. Our students stepped up to the board with courage and composure, each determined to give their best. Whether celebrating a win or learning from a loss, every child walked away a little wiser—and a lot prouder. A big thank you to Mr McFadden who has helped coach our team. Bravo to all our young competitors!





Blackwell Public Speaking Stage 2 and Stage 3

We are now in Week 4 of our scheduled Blackwell Public Speaking Competition. This is the week, your child can ask for feedback on their speeches. Weeks 5-6 are when the class competitions take place. We appreciate your support in helping your child to prepare and practice their speeches.

Year 3	Imagine the Future	2 minutes
Year 4	A World Without...	2 minutes
Year 5	Open Topic – Free choice	3 minutes
Year 6	Open Topic – Free choice	3 minutes

Two students from each grade class will be selected to participate in our Blackwell Public Speaking Competition 2025.

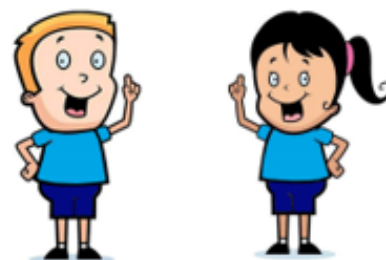
Class Schedule for Stage 2/3 Term 3

Weeks 1-3	Weeks 4	Weeks 5-6	Week 7	Week 8
Students prepare speeches at home. A list of ideas for Year 5/6 is available from class teachers. A copy of the marking criteria is also available.	Students are invited to practice speeches for ideas/advice from their class teachers.	Class Competitions	Students who have been selected to participate in the Blackwell Competition continue to practice their speeches.	Tuesday, 9 th September '25 Blackwell Public Speaking Competition

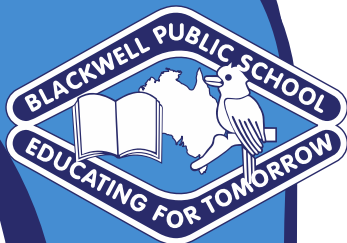
NB: We understand that public speaking is not for everyone but having a go and participating in class competitions is designed to be a positive experience. Our expectation is that all students will plan, prepare and present a speech.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, (stephanie.coard@det.nsw.edu.au), or your child's class teacher.

Stephanie Coard



PUBLIC SPEAKING



COMMUNITY NEWS



Coowarra OOSH

Enrolments open for before and after school care servicing Blackwell public school

Coowarra cottage

Before school 6:30 - 9am

After school 3:00 - 6:30pm

Vacation care 7:00am - 6:00pm

Coowarra hub (Blackwell school site)

Before school 7:00 - 9:00am

After school 3:00 - 6:00pm

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- **Breakfast**
- **Afternoon tea**
- **Craft, sports and a variety of fun activities**

For further information contact:

Cottage site
coowarraoosh@optusnet.com.au
0410 655 563

Blackwell Hub
Coowarahub@gmail.com
0493 995 063

ENROLMENT LINKS AND ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE

WWW.COOWARRAOOSH.COM



Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Information for parents and carers



What is phonics?

Phonics is the relationship between letters and sounds and is vital in learning to read. Some children struggle with learning to read, so it is important that these children are identified quickly. This way, teachers can plan for any specific support they may need.

What is the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check?

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is a short state-wide assessment that tells teachers how your child is progressing in phonics. This screening check observes how your child can read English words with different letter combinations. Your child will sit with a teacher and will be asked to read 40 words aloud. These words include 20 real words and 20 nonsense words. The purpose of the nonsense words is to see if the student can use their knowledge of blending to read a word rather than their memory of having seen that word before. The test normally takes 5-7 minutes. If your child is struggling the teacher will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

The main purpose of the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is to provide your child's teacher with information which will allow them to plan for your child's learning. Each child is individually assessed by a teacher and all Year 1 students will be assessed.

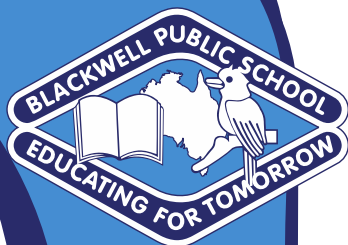
Why is phonics important?

Phonic knowledge and skills are essential for learning to read and write in English. To be successful, students need to learn the sounds represented by individual letters or different letter combinations, and the skill of blending these sounds together to read words. Beginning readers need to learn how to blend sounds together in words quickly and fluently, so as not to disrupt the flow of reading and their comprehension of the text.

Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.

Telephone interpreter service

If you need interpreter assistance to contact the school, please call 131 450, tell the operator what language you need and ask them to phone the school. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.



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Thanks to Mrs Kellie Bowden from Dance Industrie who again volunteered to organise a stage 2 Dance troupe and at the last moment, stepped in to polish the Stage 3 Boys' and Girls' routines when Mrs Marsh transferred to Cooma at the beginning of this term. Your expertise and willingness to assist ensured we took centre stage with some memorable performances.

Proud to be a member of our STePS Community. Learning on Darug Land.

58A Blackwell Avenue, St Clair NSW 2759 T: 02 9670 5080 blackwell-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au