Diary dates:

**Week 4**

- Thu 29/10 9.30am RRHS High Achievers interviews for selected Y6 students - @ BPS
- Fri 30/10 **Halloween lunch & activities 11.30am – 3.15pm**
  - No lunch orders this week
  - No awards assembly this week due to Halloween activities

**Week 5**

- Mon 2/11
- Tue 3/11 Y6 Fundraiser – Melbourne Cup Obstacle Course
- Wed 4/11 Mrs McNess returns from LSL
- Thu 5/11 **Deadline for payment & permission note for Intensive Swimming Scheme**
  - Staff Planning Day – relief teachers on all classes
- Fri 6/11 Double awards assembly 3pm

**Week 6**

- Mon 9/11 Swimming school starts
- Tue 10/11
- Wed 11/11 Remembrance Day assembly 11am
  - Mrs Stevens @ TOTs Day / Miss Curran
- Thu 12/11
- Fri 13/11

**Regular P&C days:**
- Tuesdays: 3:30pm Uniform shop
- Thursdays: Lunch orders by 9:30am
- Fridays: Canteen lunches served (pre-ordered only)  

The P&C Shopping Trip to Robina has changed dates – it is now Saturday 5 December

NO awards or assembly this week due to Halloween (double awards at assembly in Week 5)

**Items being brought onto school premises**

Recently we have had a spate of items being brought into the school grounds which we have had to confiscate. Any items which pose a risk to students, staff or community members will be held at the office and an interview will be organised with parents and carers.

**PLEASE DO NOT:**
- pack knives or sharp implements in lunchboxes (this includes metal cutlery)
- bring fire starting equipment such as matches or lighters into the school (this includes parents & carers)
- bring toys like replica guns, baseball bats and rubber snakes

Please discuss this request with your child/ren.

The Department has stringent safety regulations regarding this.

~ Mrs Tate

**Halloween – update from Mrs Tate**

Children WILL get wet tomorrow, regardless of the weather so ensure they bring a towel and a change of clothes.

If overcast please pack a jumper/jacket.

Activities will kick off at 12pm sharp.

**Principal’s Report with Allan Duroux**

**2016 Planning**

At this time of the year the school commences planning for 2016. A major part of this is knowing how many students will be at our school next year. If you are intending on moving to another school in 2016, could you please advise the school in writing by Wednesday 4 November.

No Assembly or Weekly awards

There will be no weekly assembly or awards this week due to the Halloween activities. Week 4 awards will be presented with the week 5 assembly.
Attendance
Extract from the Department of Education Attendance Policy

2. What are the responsibilities of parents?
   Parents must ensure:
   2.1. their children of compulsory school age are enrolled in a government or registered non-government school or, registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) for Home Schooling.
   2.2. their children who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for instruction.
   2.3. they provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence through means such as telephone call, written note, text message or email. The 7 day timeframe for explaining absences is a requirement of the Education Act (1990).
   2.4. they work in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school. This includes communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child’s attendance or engagement with school.

A copy of the NSWDoE Compulsory School Attendance is attached to the Bulletin today, and has been uploaded to our school website - under the PERMISSION & OTHER NOTES tab.

Grandparents Day
Our school hosted a Grandparents Day last Thursday. Over 100 guests enjoyed an afternoon tea preceded by a small school concert performed by the students. It was fantastic to see so many people enjoying their afternoon at our school. Many of the visitors were ex-students. Thank you to all the families for their kind donation of food items for the afternoon tea.

School Swimming Scheme
This program will run during weeks 6 and 7 of this term. It is expected that all students in years 2 and 3 attend regardless of swimming skill or experience. All levels are catered for at the pool by the qualified instructors. Year 4 & some Year 5 students have also been invited to attend. Thank you to the families who have returned the expression of interest note and payments. This is an invaluable program that not only teaches students how to swim but also how to rescue themselves or others if they are in danger in or near waterways. The cost is far cheaper than pursuing private lessons outside of school. Please ensure notes and money are returned promptly - the deadline for payment is next Thursday 5/11/15.

P&C Meeting
The P&C held their general meeting on Tuesday this week in the school library. The P&C have two fundraising events happening this weekend and next week. The P&C Shopping bus trip to Robina is now on Saturday 5th December. Next Tuesday 3rd of November, the P&C are holding a ‘Dog’ Night at the Lismore Greyhound Racing Club at Coleman’s Point, Lismore. Tickets are on sale at the school. Tickets cost $5 each (Children 12 years & under are free) and the P&C only makes money off pre-sold tickets.

Details of these events can be found in the P&C section of this bulletin. These events are fantastic fundraising opportunities and I encourage all families to support them.

Student items brought to school
A reminder that any item a student brings to school they do so at their own risk as it may get lost or broken. Some children are coming to school with numerous toys etc so we request that it be limited to ONE item only.

Ipods, MP3s, Iphones, DS etc are to be placed in the container at the office each morning for safe keeping. The item can be collected at the end of the day. It is recommended that expensive items be left at home.

Year 6 OBSTACLE COURSE FUNDRAISER, next Tuesday 3rd November (Melbourne Cup Day)
Yes, it’s on again! Eleven Year 6 jockeys (plus a Mystery rider …) and their trusty steeds will be racing around the obstacle course to see who will be this year’s winner. The jockey’s will parade with their horses next week. They will have to consume a ‘supplied’ nutritional snack before they ride through the course.

Students can support Year Six by purchasing a jockey for $1. All proceeds will go towards the Year 6 gift to the school at the end of the year. Please come along and cheer our Year 6 jockeys to the finish line.

2016 Kindy Enrolments
We are currently taking in zone enrolments for 2016 Kindergarten. If you know of a family with a child ready for ‘Big’ school, encourage them to contact the school for an appointment to discuss enrolment or to have a look at our wonderful school.

PEER SUPPORT at BLAKEBROOK PS - Week 4 update
‘Types of friends’ is the focus in Peer Support this week. Children will explore what encourages them to form friendships with different people (common interests, admirable qualities etc). Through various activities children will identify that their friends can fall into the categories of ‘best friends’, ‘friends’ and ‘people we know’. Children will also discuss the fact that friendships can change over time for various reasons.

Discuss with your child the different friends they have in their lives and how friendships may change. Some friends may be more important at different times in their lives.
2015 Year Six Blakebrook Obstacle Cup with Mrs Perren

Next Tuesday, November 3rd, the school stops for the race of the 2015 Year 6 jockeys and their trusty steeds around the obstacle course. All Year 6 students (plus a mystery rider) will be riding for the glory of holding up the cup at the end of the race. Of course, all jockeys will have to fully consume a nutritional snack before entering the course.

Please support Year Six by buying a jockey draw for $1. All proceeds go toward the Year 6 end of year gift to the school.

Starting line up:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jockey</th>
<th>Trusty Steed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Josh</td>
<td>Rainbow Unicorn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leo</td>
<td>Bullseye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rani</td>
<td>Coco Loco</td>
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<td>Isabel</td>
<td>Mr Ed</td>
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<td>Zac</td>
<td>Randy Ortan</td>
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<td>Jack</td>
<td>Black Pearl</td>
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<td>Luke S</td>
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<td>Lian F</td>
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<td>Kellie</td>
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<td>Erika</td>
<td>Twinkle Toes</td>
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<td>Hayden P</td>
<td>Burning Thunder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mystery Rider</td>
<td>Gemini Gi Gi</td>
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GENERAL NEWS

Head lice
Once again these nasty little critters are doing the rounds at school. Anyone can catch head lice – it’s not a sign of being dirty; in fact, head lice prefer clean hair. Head lice will spread anywhere people work, play or live together. Head lice can’t be prevented but you can treat it properly and safely. This week we have included detailed head lice information. This has also been uploaded (under the ‘PERMISSION & OTHER NOTES’ tab) on our school website: blakebrook-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

DVD For Sale
The DVD of our school production Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies is now ready for sale at a cost of $2. Mrs Skorjenko has worked long and hard to make this available and stresses that the DVD would be best viewed on a computer, due to the sound inconsistencies. At present we have 1 copy available, however more copies can be made available on request.

Kinder Orientation
2016 Kinders need to have their Enrolment Form, Birth Certificate & Immunisation Status to school by Wednesday 18th November. Please hand to Wendy in the Office
Year 7 entry to selective high schools in 2017 (current Year 5 students) - repeat

Important information:
- Parents must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement
- Applications for entry in 2017 can be made online between now and 16 November 2015.
  Applications will not be accepted after 16 November 2015.
- All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test to be held on Thursday 10 March 2016.

A copy of the booklet Information about applying for Year 7 entry to selective high schools in 2017 relating to entry to selective high schools in 2017 is available for viewing in the school admin foyer or you can find a copy of the document at https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/publicschoolsnswh/school-programs/ selective-high-school-placement

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2-3 Class News with Lois Skorjenko

Water bottles: Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school each day. Children are encouraged to drink water during class times and by having a water bottle there is a lot less spillage than with a cup of water.

Artwork: during our outdoor learning art activity on Monday the children painted their perspective of the school's remaining jacaranda tree. Below are work samples from Tristan, Rorie, Riley and Tamzyn.
Blakebrook Public School P & C Newsletter  
Thursday 29th October 2015 – Week 4 Term 4

**CANTEEN**
Canteen has commenced again if you are able to assist please sms Ali 0420 946407

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CANTEEN ROSTER &amp; MENU</strong></th>
<th><strong>TERM 4 2015</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
<td>Fri 30th Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work (9.30am - 1pm)</td>
<td>Halloween Fundraiser</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
<td>Fri 6th Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work (9.30am - 1pm)</td>
<td>Kay Cooper</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
<td>Fri 13th Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work (9.30am - 1pm)</td>
<td><strong>Vacant</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7</strong></td>
<td>Fri 20th Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work (9.30am - 1pm)</td>
<td>Karen Symonds</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8</strong></td>
<td>Fri 27th Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work (9.30am - 1pm)</td>
<td>Rachel Essery</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9</strong></td>
<td>Fri 4th Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work (9.30am - 1pm)</td>
<td>Nicole Davey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 10</strong></td>
<td>Fri 11th Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work (9.30am - 1pm)</td>
<td>Sharon Weir/Nicole Murray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUNDRAISING**

**Greyhound Night** will be held Tuesday 3rd November, 2015 at Coleman’s Point Lismore. Tickets are available now. Are available in the office now for $5 each. Please purchase before the night. Thank you to all our sponsors for the night please ensure you have your payment with you on Tuesday if not before.

**DATE CHANGE IN BUS TRIP**

**Shopping Bus Trip** is NOW Saturday 5th December, 2015. The costs will be $30 per person and we are looking at heading to Robina Town Centre. There are only two pick up points Blakebrook Public School 7.30am and St Carthages Cathedral, Leycester Street, Lismore 7.45am returning to the Cathedral approx 5.30pm and Blakebrook 5.45pm. Remember to bring boxes or bags for your shopping so it doesn’t slide around under the bus. Money raised will support our representative students and purchase equipment for the playground.

Name: ___________________________  Contact Number: ___________________________
Number of Seats required: ___________________________  Pick up point: ___________________________

**Masters BBQ** is on Sunday 6th December, 2015. Volunteers needed for the day please contact Betty with your availability!

**P&C QUERIES** - please contact Betty to assist on 0415 394354 not Wendy in the office thank you!

**Next P&C meeting Tuesday 24th November, 2015 – Week 8, Term 4**

Betty McPaul on behalf of the P and C Committee  Mobile  0415 394354
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, Information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities
Anyone can catch head lice - it's not a sign of being dirty; in fact, head lice prefer clean hair. Head lice will spread anywhere people work, play or live together. Head lice can’t be prevented but you can treat it properly and safely when it occurs. Your pharmacist can give you advice on how to stop head lice spreading.

Head lice are wingless insects that make their home in people’s hair. They are difficult to see. Their favourite hiding places are behind the ears and on the back of the neck. Head lice feed on human blood and, as they do, spill saliva on to the scalp, making it itchy.

Female lice lay their eggs usually within 1.5cm of the scalp. The eggs (also called nits) are glued to the base of hairs. They hatch in about 7 days. Head lice are spread by close contact. They do not live long off the body.

IMPORTANT
° If head lice are not treated properly then lice can be passed on to others & continued scratching can cause skin infections.
° Signs of infection include weeping and crusting on the skin, swollen glands and mild fever. If any of these symptoms appear, see your doctor.

Head lice treatments should NOT be used regularly. They do not prevent head lice.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS
• Itch - especially toward the back of the scalp, neck and behind the ears or rash caused by scratching
• White specks (the eggs) stuck to base of hair that don’t fall out when you shake hair
• Tiny dark lice on scalp (difficult to find).

Finding head lice:
° Lice are difficult to find or see. To check for lice apply conditioner to dry hair & comb through with a fine-toothed comb
° Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper tissue and look for lice/eggs on the tissue and comb.
° Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 5 times.
° Check your child/children every week with the above method
° You should treat for head lice if you find lice or eggs

TREATING HEAD LICE
Only use a head lice product if there are signs and symptoms of head lice. Use a product that is best for the current lice outbreak and that suits your needs. Ask your pharmacist. Instructions as follows:
° Apply the product to all the scalp and hair, from the roots to the tips. For long hair, apply the treatment near the scalp and then use an ordinary comb to spread the treatment down the length of the hair to the tips.
° Leave the product on for the right amount of time - read the instructions.
° Don’t let the product get into the eyes - cover eyes with a tightly rolled cloth or towel.
° Wash the product out of hair well with water. A hair conditioner will help get knots out.
° Dry hair with a towel (don’t use a hair dryer as it breaks down head lice products).
° Head lice products will kill nits but won’t remove them from the hair.
° While hair is still damp, comb hair with a special fine-toothed comb to remove dead lice and nits
° (ask your pharmacist). Comb a few strands at a time. Start close to the scalp and comb hair upwards.
° Check for lice again 7-10 days after treating. A second treatment may be necessary.
° Ask y Nits more than 2cm from the scalp are usually dead or have hatched.
° If needed, a second treatment should be applied 7 days after the first treatment. Any eggs left alive after the first treatment will hatch in 7 days so there’s no point in re-treating any sooner.

Preventing head lice spreading
Treat any family members who show signs of head lice (except women who are pregnant and infants). Other family members should be checked regularly.
° Don’t share brushes, combs, hats or scrunchies. Wash brushes, combs, etc., in hot soapy water. Dry them in the sun.
° For persistent infections it may also help to wash towels, sheets and pillowcases.

SELF CARE
° Keep children away from school or pre-school until they have been fully treated.
• Check children’s hair for head lice or nits at least once a week if their friends have head lice.
• Keep long hair tied back – pigtails, plaits or ponytails.
• Head lice products are poisons, so keep them out of reach of children.
• Don’t use head lice products with a spirit base near heaters or open fires. They are highly flammable (check the label).
• Don’t let children use head lice products by themselves.

Information from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

COMMUNITY NEWS

Desperately seeking a local rental property
Preference for a rental close to Jiggi Road area, but will consider anywhere in the local area of Pinchin Road, Blakebrook, Boorie Creek, Goolmganar, Jiggi, Keerrong, Leycester, Rock Valley, etc.
Working mum, non-smoker, one child, clean & tidy, good references
Phone Bobbie on 0421 786 216

Canteen News: WHAT IS FRESH TASTES?
Our school implements the Fresh Tastes @ School NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy, which means our canteen has guidelines to follow when designing the menu. Fresh Tastes @ School uses a coloured spectrum to categorise food based on nutritional value:
GREEN: these foods are a good source of nutrients and contain less saturated fat, sugar, salt and excessive kilojoules so fill the menu with these foods.
AMBER: these foods have some nutritional value, moderate levels of saturated fat, added sugar and salt so select these foods carefully, avoid large portion sizes and don’t allow them to dominate the menu.
RED: have little to no nutritional value and are high in saturated fat, added sugar, salt and excess kilojoules. These foods can only be sold on two occasions per term.
For more information, visit www.healthy-kids.com.au

BUNNINGS LISMORE
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR FAMILY FUN DAY on SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 11am-2pm
Featuring TARA DENNIS, BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS PRESENTER

Silhouette Art workshop with Tara, Supplier Demo’s, Prizes galore, jumping castle, fun games and an all-round fun day, Halloween fancy dress being judged by Tara.
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL PH: 66240800
Blakebrook PS is:

- Listening to instructions
- Letting others play
- Sitting quietly
- Taking turns
- Putting bags in lines