Welcome back to school everyone.
A special welcome to our new Reception students and their families to our community: Sorayah White, Marcus Mourant and Summer Kaeding.
We also welcome Jacqui Kenny to our staff. Jacqui comes to us from Brinkworth Primary School and is taking the place of Kate Harvey, who continues her accouchement leave this year.

We begin the year with 46 students.
I look forward to meeting you all at Acquaintance Night.

Cheers, Dzintra

Acquaintance Night
This year teachers invite you to share a barbecue tea with them on Monday 18th February, before the school’s Annual General Meeting. We would like to meet with families in an informal way, and instead of having scheduled information sessions, will have classrooms open for you to visit with your children. Hamburgers and sausages will be supplied and we ask families to provide a salad. The BBQ will be available between 5.30 pm and 6.45 pm. Teachers will supervise children should you wish to attend the AGM.

Please return the reply slip for your family so that we can cater for the numbers attending.

School Chaplaincy
During the summer holidays, Mignon Ottens, retired from her position as the school’s Christian Pastoral Support Worker. We thank Mignon for her dedication, care and hard work during her four and a half years with the school and we will miss her support in so many ways. Good luck Mignon. We wish you well as you get the opportunity to spend more time with your family and grandchildren.

Active After School
Active After School Communities activities begin in Week 3 - Swimming at the Valleys Leisure Centre in Clare on Mondays after school and Table Tennis on Wednesdays at the school. More information and consent forms are attached with the newsletter. Children who go swimming will also need to collect a Swimming and Aquatic Consent Form from Mrs Richards.

Annual General Meeting
The Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council will be held on Monday 18th February at 7.00pm in the Library. Come along and hear about the school’s performance and achievements in 2012 and our future directions.

Uniforms
A small uniform order has been place to give us a starting point for the uniform shop this year. We have some items in stock already and hopefully the rest will be here soon. If you require any uniform items please come in and see Marie at the Front Office or send in a completed order form with your child.

Attachments with this newsletter
- Term 1 Calendar
- Permission Forms (x 2)
- Governing Council AGM info
- Governing Council Nomination Forms
- Acquaintance Night reply
- Uniform Order
- Active After School Communities Letter & Consent Form
**Governing Council Elections**

Seven vacancies for Governing Council exist. We encourage you to nominate for Governing Council. Being on Governing Council gives you the opportunity to learn a little more about school operations and you are able to provide your perspective when decisions are made. If you are unsure about taking this step, have a chat to Gavin McElroy, Greg Toholke, Cherie Stirling, Charmain Angel, Sarina King, Brad Kennett, Brett Bertelsmeir, Phillip Bigg or Scott Welke, all of whom were on Governing Council last year.

Elections for Governing Council occur after the annual report has been presented at the AGM. When the meeting closes, a short Governing Council meeting is held to elect office bearers. Governing Council meets on Monday evenings, usually on the third Monday of the month, with two meetings a term.

**Material & Services Charges 2013**

At the end of 2012, Governing Council decided that the M&S charge be $170 per student for 2013. Invoices are attached and will be due and payable within 28 days of the invoice date. If for any reason you are unable to meet this commitment by then, please ensure that you make an arrangement with the front office to pay in instalments or with an agreed alternative arrangement.

**School Card**

The **School Card Scheme** is administered by the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) and provides financial assistance towards the educational expenses incurred by families at government and non-government schools who meet the eligibility criteria.

School card assistance is available for: dependent students from 4 years of age receiving full-time schooling at a government and non-government school independent full-time students undertaking 6 subjects in years 10 or 11, or 5 subjects in year 12 at a government or non-government school adult re-entry students undertaking DECD funded subjects.

Eligibility for School Card assistance is dependent upon the combined family income for the applicable financial year being within the School Card income limits. The School Card income limits are listed on the fact sheet, which is attached to each application form.

School Card assistance provides financial assistance towards educational costs such as school fees (known as Materials and Services Charges in government school), uniform costs, and camp/excursion fees.

Applicants are required to apply each school year, using the appropriate form available at your schools Front Office.

For any additional information on the School Card Scheme please contact your child’s school or free call 1800 672 758.

School Card forms are available for anyone who requires them. Please ask to have them sent home to you for completion.

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<td>Finance, Secretarial, ICT support</td>
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<td>Mrs Cutting</td>
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<td>Julie Page</td>
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**Parent Club**

Welcome to 2013. Parent Club will hold our first meeting for the year on Tues, 19th Feb at 2pm in the Staffroom. This will be a meet and greet afternoon tea to welcome new parents into the school. An invitation is extended to all parents to come and join us. Parent Club is an informal way to keep in touch with what is happening in the school and meets once a month.

We are currently still seeking a president so if anyone is interested please contact me to have a chat.

Tamara Pyrke
0438445118
Secretary
**Rec-Year 1 News**

Dear Families,

Well we have had one day of school and it went well. Picking our table and helping with desk buddies to set up our “caddy” with coloured pencils, textas, scissors, sharpener and ruler. We used our new textas to draw a picture about our holidays (then write about it) our oil pastels to draw “fire-works” used to celebrate Australia Day and New Year’s Eve.

By end of week we’ll be ready to send home reading books and Library books.

Thankyou for the “Wild Animals” that have arrived to support our theme “Animals in the Zoo”.

Our class of 12 children is a really lovely bunch of children.

We’re off to a good year!

Cheers, Gabrielle Silvester

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**Year 2-4 News**

Dear Parents,

We have had a great day at school and most of it was organisation and getting to know each other.

I will be doing a lot of testing over the next few weeks to settle children into Spelling and Reading groups, so your child may not have the correct reader level for a short time.

Our theme is Animals and Life Cycles of Insects and Frogs and we will be visiting the Zoo later in the term with the Junior Primary class.

Please come and talk to me if you have any concerns about your child.

Your assistance is very valuable and you are most welcome to come in and help in the classroom.

Regards, Jillian MP Teacher.

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**Year 5-7 News**

I would like to welcome all families and children to the Upper Primary learning space for this year. I am looking forward to sharing and learning with your son or daughter throughout the year.

I will be working full time in the upper primary class this year.

The staff have been very supportive and helpful in supporting me with my transition into a new school.

The first few weeks of this school New Year will be spent settling into routines and classroom management.

The class is also collecting for our Art supplies black trays that fruit/veg - meat are packed on, toilet rolls, yoghurt cups etc. Please send them to the upper primary class.

I look forward to meeting all the parents and the wider community of Blyth.

Regards, Jacqui Kenny

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**German**

Our German programme for the term will be a busy one. Lots of revision to start the year and of course, Karneval and Easter. Cheryl Pyrke is covering some cultural experiences in weeks 1 and 2. Thanks Cheryl!

Keep an eye on the international weather scene. The extreme cold in Europe and U.S. is amazing and if you can share any of the weather pictures with the children, it would be great.

We don’t often see much of Europe on the television so grab the chance.

I came across an interesting quote from Nelson Mandela. Think on it for a while:

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.”

Tshüß, Judy

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**BALAKLAVA TENNIS CLUB**

**JUNIOR TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

Sunday 24th February 2013 at 8.30am at Ralli Park Courts

Doubles and singles events for boys and girls aged 10 - 17yrs

Entries and fees to be received by Friday 15th February 2013
To Tania Allen
P.O. Box 262 Balaklava 5461

Ph 88622212 or Mb 0419 034 096.

All interested players to ring or txt the above numbers with your name/address and an entry form will be posted out.
**Your Sister’s Sister (M) ★★★★.5**  
Fri 25th Jan 8.00pm Drama -Emily Blunt

**Beasts Of The Southern Wild (M) ★★★★★**  
Sat 26th Jan 8.00pm Drama re Mississippi Flood  
Fri 1st Feb 8.00pm  
3 Academy Award nominations

**Looper (MA15+) ★★★★.5**  
Sat 2nd Feb 8.00pm Sci-Fi /Action/Crime  
Fri 8th Feb 8.00pm  
Bruce Willis, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emily Blunt

**Arbitrage (M) ★★★★★**  
Sat 9th Feb 8.00pm Richard Gere -Drama

**Le Chef (M) ★★★★.5**  
Tues 12th Feb 2.00pm French comedy Jean Reno

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**Piano Lessons**  
Maureen Eime will again be offering Piano lessons to students at the school on Wednesday afternoons. Please contact her on 0427 606 166 with any inquiries.