Calendar of Events ...

Term 4

Week 6

**Monday, November 9-10**
Creative Arts Camp K-6

**Tuesday, November 10**
ASAP & HWC
Music Education Australia

**Wednesday, November 11**
ASAP & HWC
Aussie Hoops

**Thursday, November 12**
ASAP & HWC No gymnastics
Aussie Hoops

Week 7

**School Swimming Scheme Week 7**

**Monday, November 16**
ASAP & HWC
Music Education Australia

**Wednesday, November 18**
Musica Viva
ASAP & HWC
Aussie Hoops

**Thursday, November 19**
ASAP
Gymnastics

COMING EVENTS

**Week 7 November 16-20**
School Swimming Scheme

**Wednesday, November 18**
9:30am Musica Viva

**Thursday, December 10**
Presentation Night

**Sunday, December 6**
Guyra Rotary Street Carnival at the Showground

**Saturday, December 12**
P&C Christmas Carols Night
Students excel at Black Mountain each and every day. Students received many awards for their achievements at our school assembly. Senior students played the recorder beautifully, whilst the junior class performed ‘Shoo Fly Don’t Bother Me’ with great enthusiasm. Regular reading is a focus at our great school and many students were awarded for their daily reading habits and improvements in reading.

Mai, a Japanese exchange student, visited Black Mountain and spent two days working with both classes. Mai engaged in many conversations with students, answering their questions and talking about Japan and her home town. She also encouraged students to further develop their use of the Japanese language, focusing on nouns in Japanese. Mai was impressed with the students’ singing ‘Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes’, which made the students feel very special.

Mai also presented each student with either an origami heart or crane with their name written in English on one side and in Katakana on the other. Katakana is the language used when translating words from other countries into Japanese. The children thoroughly enjoyed Mai’s visit and hope she can come again.

The Snow Gums Learning Alliance has received a HTB Harris Award. The award recognises a program or coordinated approach to an educational need, with emphasis on innovative thinking, planning and action. Our school has received this award, together with the schools in the Snow Gums Learning Alliance, for the work we have done as part of the alliance. This award requires a nomination and is awarded by the Australian College of Educators. It is a wonderful achievement for the staff and school and one which identifies the work the school has done to support student achievement and improve student outcomes.

Year 5 and 6 students attended ‘Science in the Bush’ at the University of New England last Friday. Students investigated circuits, slime and skin...
healing properties, by conducting specific investigations using a variety of materials. They also had the opportunity to watch a Chemistry Show. Every student was excited about their day of science and learnt a great deal. This is a wonderful day to take part in. I thank parents for assisting with transport, due to last minute changes caused by weather.

Our budding young scientists Lawrence Kuchlmayr, Amity Hoade, Jacinta Alt, Nathan Nelson and Cody Hill.

The Creative Arts Camp was amazing! Each and every student had the opportunity to further develop their Creative and Practical Arts skills in a fun and exciting environment with students from the Snow Gums Learning Alliance. Students learnt circus skills, improved their Visual Art skills, learnt new dance moves and experimented with Readers' Theatre. The students were able to see and hear a Trio of musicians from the New England Conservatorium of Music who performed various pieces. Senior students then participated in a lantern festival overnight, making their own lanterns and venturing out in the dark. On Tuesday, students created iStop Motion Films and completed a Visual Arts activity before returning to school. Students each created a section of a Margaret Preston artwork which will now be joined together to create two large artworks. Please take time to ask your child about their experiences at Thalgarrah, as I am sure that they will have many interesting stories to tell you.
Basketball was cancelled last Wednesday due to weather. Fortunately, we have been able to schedule a makeup session for this week. Basketball will take place on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons this week during our After Schools Activity Program. Students are not attending the Armidale Gymnastics Centre until next Thursday November 19, which will be their final session of gymnastics for the year.

School Banking continues to thrive at Black Mountain. I thank Chrissy Bourke for her commitment to the program and the time she affords to the role every week. Working hard for pocket money, by completing roles of responsibility, helps students to gain an understanding of the value of money. Having a place for students to bank their pocket money, and to appreciate the importance of saving for things they really want, every week is fantastic!

Each year the school is required to conduct two School Evaluations. This year the school is evaluating Mathematics and Reading. The school has engaged with the new Mathematics Curriculum this year. Staff have participated in professional learning across many areas of Mathematics and have implemented new initiatives into the teaching of mathematics as a result of this learning. Staff will be evaluating the impact the learning and changes have had on student outcomes. Reading Journals were introduced this year to promote regular home reading. I will be sending home a short survey next week to gain parent feedback on regular home reading habits. I hope that the survey will not take long and encourage every family to complete it, as every piece of feedback is valued and will be utilised to support future school based decisions. I thank everyone for taking the time to complete this survey.

I can’t wait for Friday to take the school’s Cricket Team to Armidale to participate in the T20 Blast Cricket Schools’ Cup. Students are really looking forward to the event and I congratulate them for the effort they have put in to training for this event.

Opportunities are endless at Black Mountain Public School.

Belinda Baker, Principal
Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to achieve their potential, and increase their career and life options. Schools in partnerships with parents are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. It is important that your child attends school regularly to ensure that they are reaching their potential. If your child is absent from school, a reason is requested in writing when the child returns to school. Keeping the school informed by calling is greatly appreciated.
Students in the Black Mountain Public School Cricket team will be travelling to Armidale this Friday to participate in a day of cricket at Harris Park. Parents transporting students other than their own will need to provide the school with a copy of their current licence and Comprehensive Insurance Papers for the vehicle they are using to transport children in.

Please ensure your permission note is returned to school by tomorrow, if you have not already done so. Mrs Baker will inform parents of transport arrangements on Thursday afternoon. Students will need to wear their sports uniform and bring their morning tea, lunch and two bottles of water.

If the event is cancelled, Mrs Baker will inform families by 8:00am on Friday morning and children will be required to attend school as normal.

Due to Mrs Baker and Miss Lindeman completing E-Smart Training on Thursday, November 26, the School Assembly will take place on Wednesday, November 25. Parents are invited to attend the assembly, starting at 2:00pm.

It is performance time again! Students really enjoy Musica Viva performances. Students will be travelling to St. Mary of the Angels in Guyra on Wednesday November 18, 2015 to view this performance. Students can meet at St. Mary of the Angels in Guyra at 8.30am or can travel to school and back into Guyra on the school bus. This bus will leave school at 8.05am. Thank you to Joseph George for allowing students to travel into Guyra on this bus at no charge.

The school is subsidising the cost to ensure all children are able to access this great opportunity, reducing the cost to families to $4 per child.

Following this performance, students will be walking to the pool to complete the School Swimming Scheme sessions for the day. The children are to wear their full summer school uniform on this day and will change into their swimmers after arriving at the pool. Students will then return to school by bus for the remainder of the school day. Please complete the attached permission note and return it to school, together with payment, by Friday November 6, 2015.

During Week 7 (November 16-20) students will be participating in the School Swimming Scheme. This is a wonderful initiative and with Summer just around the corner, it also provides students with potentially ‘life-saving’ skills when they are having fun around water.

Students will be able to be dropped at the pool at 8:30am or can travel into Guyra on the morning school bus, which will leave the school at 8:05am.

Families with pool passes need only supply the school with their family’s pass number to ensure free entry. The cost of entry is $3.00 per day. The school is subsidising the cost of transport to $1.00 to make the program more affordable for all families.

Please ensure permission notes, ability level and money are returned to school before Friday November 13, 2015.

Black Mountain Public School will once again participate in the Guyra Rotary Christmas Street Parade this Sunday, December 6. The theme for our float this year will be 'Dancing' with all students being asked to dress in black as they did for the 'Celebration of Learning'. Students will be given a sparkly item to wear on the day.

Rotary would like to advise that as the parade is at the Showground this year, people and vehicles can enter through the Prisk Street entrance as early as 9:00am, as there will be carnival activities around the venue until the Grand Parade at 1:00pm.
Families are asked to assist with decorating the truck at 12:15pm to ensure students are on the truck ready for the parade at 1:00pm.

We are looking for anyone able to donate hay bales for us to put around the back of the truck to provide a barrier. If you are able to donate hay bales please contact Belinda Baker at the school.

**P&C Christmas Hamper Raffle ...**

The P&C would like to run a Christmas Hamper Raffle and are asking if each family could donate an item for the Christmas Hamper. Please ensure the item donated has a long ‘use by’ date. Ticket booklets will be sent home with children and sold on Presentation Night. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Fun Day on Saturday, December 12. Ticket booklets will be available from the school.

**P&C Christmas Fun Day Cake Stall ...**

The P&C are running a cake stall at the Christmas Fun Day, being held on Saturday, December 12. If you are able to provide cakes, cookies or slices to be sold at this event it would be greatly appreciated!

**Lamb and Potato Festival Fundraising Event ...**

The P&C have volunteered to complete two shifts at the ‘2016 Lamb and Potato Festival’ This is a fantastic fundraising opportunity for the school, with the funds supporting many school events.

In order to operate the kitchen and security, we need many hands. Please consider the times on the attached note and return it to school by **Friday, November 27**, to assist the P&C to coordinate this event. Every hour families can help, will make a difference. Thank you for your support!

**Whooping Cough Information ...**

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for [information for childcare and schools about whooping cough](#).
Black Mountain Public School P&C Shifts:

- Gazebo Morning Shift Sunday, January 17 from 8:00am to 2:00pm
- Night Watch Tuesday, January 26 from 8:00pm to 8:00am

2016 LAMB AND POTATO FESTIVAL

Gazebo Morning Shift Sunday, January 17 – 8am to 2pm

I, _____________________, am (please circle) available/unavailable to help with the Gazebo Morning Shift on Sunday, January 17, between ___________ and ___________.

Night Watch Tuesday, January 26 – 8pm to 8am

I, _____________________, am (please circle) available/unavailable to help with the Night Watch Shift on Tuesday, January 26, between ___________ and ___________.