Calendar of Events ...

**Term 1**

**Week 2**

*Wednesday, February 3*
ASAP/HWC

*Thursday, February 4*
5:00pm – Welcome Barbeque
6:30pm – P&C Meeting

*Friday, February 5*
Transition to Kindergarten Class

**Week 3**

*Monday, February 8*
School Banking
ASAP/HWC

*Tuesday, February 9*
School Photos
ASAP/HWC

*Wednesday, February 10*
ASAP/HWC

*Thursday, February 11*

*Friday, February 12*
Transition to Kindergarten Class

**Week 4**

*Monday, February 15*
Small School’s Swimming Carnival
ASAP/HWC

*Tuesday, February 16*
School Banking
ASAP/HWC

*Wednesday, February 17*
ASAP/HWC

*Thursday, February 18*
Life Education Van

*Friday, February 19*
Transition to Kindergarten Class
Guyra Show

**COMING EVENTS**

*Thursday, March 3*
2:00pm – Leadership Assembly
Welcome to Black Mountain Public School for 2016. This year we start our school year with 32 students and three students already attending our Transition to Kindergarten class. We anticipate a very exciting and productive year, as all work together to maximise the educational learning opportunities for our students.

Students have returned refreshed and excited about learning. Jayarna Gee, Harley Ferguson and Jamerikai Patterson have all experienced an exciting first week of Kindergarten and have transitioned seamlessly into the K-2 class.

Welcome to the Egener family. Jed and Jaya Egener have both joined the senior class. Jed is in Year 3 and Jaya is in Year 5 and both students have made a wonderful addition to our school.

Welcome back to the Williams family. Jamie Williams has returned to Australia from New Zealand and we are very excited to have him back in our school.

Cody Hill and Jamie Williams have stepped into the role of School Leaders well and are great role models for all students in the school. The students will receive their leadership badges at the Leadership Assembly.

2016 School Leaders – Cody Hill and Jamie Williams

Thomas Savage, Gabrial Beard, Jake Faint, Wahkeem Patterson and Brydie Byers have all joined the senior class showing a commitment to achieve and strive for excellence. They have been a

Welcome back to Mrs O’Neill, who returns after some restful long service leave.

Over the holidays many parents and community members supported the school in fundraising for our students. I would like to thank Tim, Jo, Kristy and Pam Youman, Darryl and Leanne Savage, Toni Patterson, Danni Pahulu, Renata Ling, Emma Lindeman, Gae and Mark Baker, for assisting with the Black Mountain Public School shifts in the canteen at the Lamb and Potato Festival.

I would also like to thank Eddie Beard, Martin Kuchlmayr, Matthew Friend, Tim Youman, Darryl Savage and Graeme Hoade for giving up sleep to assist the P&C in covering the night watch shift at the Lamb and Potato Festival.

This is a big commitment during the holidays, but one which raises high levels of funds for our P&C.
Welcome Barbeque ...

The Welcome Barbeque is on tomorrow night. The barbeque will begin at 5:00pm. All families are encouraged to attend as it is a great opportunity to enjoy a chat over dinner. The school will provide the meat and families are asked to bring a salad to share.

P&C...

If you are able to stay, the Black Mountain Public School Parents’ and Citizens’ Association will meet after the Welcome Barbeque, at 6.30pm.

Many parents are needed to support the P&C in raising funds to assist all students at the school. The annual membership fee per family is $5 and families are asked to pay this fee on the night to ensure they are able to vote at the AGM in March.

Parents are able to be as active as they choose in the P&C. Some like to take on Executive roles, whilst others prefer to help when they can, by cooking a slice or cake, cooking a barbeque at a bull sale or offering a couple of hours to run a stall. Every little bit helps.

Best Start Training ...

Best Start Assessment for Kindergarten students will take place tomorrow. Miss Lindeman will be released from class to complete the assessments and Mrs Tombs will teach the K–2 students for the day.

School Banking ...

Thank you very much to Ms Chrissy Bourke who has agreed to continue to run the School Banking Program every Monday. If your child/ren are not already participating in the School Banking Scheme and you would like them to do so, please contact Chrissy for information and forms.

Guyra Show ...

The Guyra Show opens on Friday, February 19. Students are encouraged to submit entries into the Show. Students’ artwork will be entered, along with the murals students across the Snow Gums Learning Alliance completed at the Creative Arts Camp last November.

Music Lessons ...

Music lessons are available at Black Mountain Public School. Mr Mycall Wardle is keen to travel to the school to deliver music lessons on Wednesday afternoons. This is a great opportunity for students.

Available Positions:

There will be 6 half hour sessions available. Sessions will begin at 1:40pm and conclude at 4:40pm, coinciding with our after school programs. Student session times will rotate each week to ensure students are not missing class sessions every week.

Cost:

½ an hour in pairs – $15 per child (Mycall will assist in pairing students according to ability, to ensure all students gain the most from each lesson).

½ an hour privately – $30 per child

Commitment:

8 lessons a term, with payment for the term to be made by Week 3 of lessons.

In order for the program to go ahead we will require at least ten children to be involved.

Please complete the attached permission note to enrol your child in the program and return it to school by Friday, February 5.

It is hoped that the program can begin next week. Parents who return permission notes will be contacted on Monday with a final decision on the program.

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. I congratulate parents and carers of Black Mountain Public School students for their outstanding support of education. This is evident in our attendance results.

An explanation of a child’s absence from school should be provided either in writing or via a phone call to the school promptly and within seven days of the child’s absence.

If a child is required to be absent from school, due to exceptional circumstances, parents can apply for an Exemption from Attendance at School. This application must be made in writing and if possible prior to the absence. An application form can be collected from the front office. If the principal deems the circumstances resulting in the child being absent from school fall under the criteria for exceptional circumstances then an Exemption from Attendance at School may be granted. A Certificate of Exemption will be completed by the Principal and will need to be signed by a parent. Parents need to be able to present their Certificate of Exemption should they be asked by a Home School Liaison Officer why their child is not attending school.

Encouraging regular attendance is a core school responsibility and I thank parents for ensuring their children attend school every day and for being outstanding role models. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school should you have any questions about attendance.

School Photos ...

School Photos will take place on Tuesday, February 9. Please ensure your child is at school by 8:40am dressed in their full summer school uniform, as the whole school photo will be taken at this time.

Envelopes to order school photos will be sent home and will need to be returned on the day of school photos.

If you would like a family photo please contact the school office on 6775 0192 to request an order form be sent home with your child.

Life Education ...

The Life Education Van will be visiting the school on Thursday, February 18, 2016. Students will visit the van in class groups. The school is subsidising the cost of this program, to reduce the cost to families to $6 per child.

Please complete the attached permission slip and return it to school, together with payment, by Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

Black Mountain School Times
This term the After School Activities Program and Homework Centre will operate as follows:

**Monday:** Homework Centre and Lawn Bowls
**Tuesday:** Hockey and Homework Centre
**Wednesday:** Athletics and Homework Centre

**Coaches:**
Mrs Moore will run Homework Centre each afternoon.
Mr Blair Chalmers will run Hockey clinics with Mrs Moore on Tuesday afternoons.
Mr Jay Stone will run athletics sessions with Mrs Moore on Wednesday afternoons.

**Cost:**
The cost will be $5 per afternoon, per child.

**Arrangements:**
**Monday, February 8**
Mr Blair Chalmers will run an extra hockey session, therefore students will remain at school

**From Monday, February 15**
Students will catch the school bus into Guyra at 3:40pm and participate in lawn bowls sessions at the Guyra Bowling Club until 4:40pm, when they will need to be collected from the Bowling Club in Guyra. Mr Joseph George and Mrs Faye Skinner have kindly offered the school to utilise the school bus at no charge to travel into Guyra.

**On Tuesdays and Wednesdays**
All sessions will take place at the school and, therefore, students will need to be collected from the school by no later than 4:40pm.

Please complete the attached permission slip to enable your child to attend these great after school programs.

**Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival ...**

The Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday February 15, 2016, at the Guyra Swimming Pool. All students will be attending the carnival.

Students will be issued with blue or yellow wrist bands to identify the races for which they are eligible:

YELLOW – 50m or more,
BLUE – 25m, and
NO WRIST BAND – Non Swimmer.

Activities for Non Swimmers will be available throughout the day.

Students will be able to travel to the swimming pool on the morning bus which leaves Black Mountain Public School at 8:10am, or be dropped at the pool by 8:40am.

Students will need to bring their pool entry money of $4.00 each to be paid on entry to the pool or, alternatively, they will need to show their Season Swimming Pass.

The canteen will be open, however all students are asked to bring a water bottle and a piece of fruit for morning fruit break, as the canteen will not open until first break.

**Guyra Central School Swimming Carnival ...**

The Guyra Central School Swimming Carnival will take place on Friday, February 12. Families wishing their child/ren to attend this event are welcome to take their children, however parents will need to supervise their child/ren throughout the day.

The Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival allows children to qualify for the District Swimming Carnival and, therefore, attending the Guyra Central School Carnival would simply be another event for competent swimmers to compete and practice.

If you would like to take your child/ren to the carnival, please contact the Principal at the Black Mountain by Friday, February 5, to ensure she is able to let Guyra Central School know of numbers attending.

**Book Club ...**

This year Scholastic continues to offer a Linked Online Ordering and Payment System which allows parents to order and pay for their child’s books online, under the Black Mountain Public School Account. The books are then delivered to the school and given to students.

Attached to the newsletter is a step by step outline of the process to follow. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

**Scripture ...**

Mr Stephen Holt, a Lay Preacher associated with the Anglican Church in Guyra, has again willingly agreed to teach half hour scripture lessons on Monday afternoons to each of the classes at Black Mountain for 2016.

If you would not like your child to participate in these sessions in 2016 please notify the school in writing.
Regular School Attendance

Information for parents and carers

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

From 2010, all New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

1. in school or registered for home schooling, or
2. in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
3. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals don’t consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the NSW Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurrent numbers of unjustified absences from school.

Must I send my child every day?

YES. It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child’s hair regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.

Translated information about head lice can be found at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/headlice/infoshart.htm

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice is not a valid reason for prolonged absences from school.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If your child doesn’t learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.
Why is arriving at school on time important?

Arriving at school and class on time:
- ensures that your child doesn’t miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore
- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateeness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations.

If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school principal in advance and request leave and/or an exemption from school.

Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be, you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport?

YES. Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport.

Do not keep your child away from school for the following:
- birthdays
- shopping
- minding other children
- routine check ups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:
- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

All absences must be explained to the school. Bilingual absentee notes and further information on attendance can be found on the Department’s website under the heading School Attendance (School Attendance) at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/leguagesupport/documents/index_3.htm

The principal of the school has the right to question parents’ or carers’ requests for their child to be absent from school.

The principal may also question any explanation given for a child’s absence from school.

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. The principal may seek support from a home school liaison officer or Aboriginal student liaison officer.

Who are home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers?

Home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers have been specially trained to help you with your child’s attendance.

They work with school communities to encourage all students to attend school regularly.

For further information about the Home School Liaison Program you should contact the program manager at your local Department of Education and Training regional office. Contact numbers can be found at the website address: www.det.nsw.edu.au/contactus/index.htm or by telephoning 131 536.

Do you have problems with getting your child to school, for some of the following reasons?

- won’t get out of bed
- won’t go to bed
- can’t find their clothes, books, homework, school bag...
- school lunches not ready
- slow to eat breakfast
- homework not done
- watching television late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- test or presentation at school
- birthdays
- screaming and not letting go of you.

Here are some suggestions which are based on setting regular routines:

- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have a set time for starting/ending breakfast. A routine is important
- Set time for daily homework activities
- Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate
- Be firm, children must go to school
- Provide lots of positive encouragement
- Be firm, a birthday is not a holiday
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child’s hand into that of the teacher and then leave.

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

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Student Welfare Directorate
NSW Department of Education & Training
## Term I 2016 Calendar

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ASAP: After School Activities Program  
HWC: Homework Centre