Term 1, 2015 - Week 3

**Calendar of Events ...**

**Term 1**

**Week 3**

*Wednesday, February 11*
2:40–4:40pm AAAP/HWC

*Thursday, February 12*
2:40–4:40pm AAAP/HWC

*Friday, February 13*
Transition to Kindergarten Class
Guyra Central School Swimming Carnival – Years 3–6 only

**Week 4**

*Monday, February 16*
School Banking
Music Australia

*Tuesday, February 17*
2:40–4:40pm AAAP/HWC

*Wednesday, February 18*
MSP School Photographs
2:40–4:40pm AAAP/HWC

*Friday, February 20*
Transition to Kindergarten Class
Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival – Transition–Year 6

*Friday and Saturday, February 20–21*
Guyra Show

**Week 5**

*Monday, February 23*
School Banking
Music Australia

*Wednesday, February 25*
2:40–4:40pm AAAP/HWC

*Thursday, February 26*
2:00pm Leadership Assembly
2:40–4:40pm AAAP/HWC

*Friday, February 24*
Transition to Kindergarten Class

**COMING EVENTS**

*Wednesday, March 18*
Harmony Day Activities

*Thursday, March 26*
2:00pm School Assembly

*Thursday, April 2*
Easter Celebration

*Tuesday, April 21*
STUDENTS RETURN FOR TERM 2
Students have enjoyed the start of another school year. Black Mountain has started the year with 31 children, ensuring that we will maintain two classes. I can see this is going to be another great year.

The welcome barbeque was a wonderful night and I would like to thank the families able to attend. It was a good opportunity to stop and catch up on the holidays, and talk about the year ahead.

Following the barbeque, the P&C held their AGM. Congratulations to the P&C Executive of 2015: Vicki Bell was appointed President, Carmel Hoade took on the role of Secretary, Tim Youman accepted the position of Treasurer and Graeme Hoade and Darryl Savage were appointed Vice Presidents 1 and 2.

Kindergarten were asked what their favourite things about starting school are. Sarah Savage enjoys using the SmartBoard, Angus Youman likes doing work, Maddi Byers has enjoyed playing and cleaning up and Shyla-Lee Cutmore found painting to be her favourite part of school. Kindergarten has undergone Best Start Testing, during which time they were keen to show Miss Lindeman all they know. The data from these assessments will assist with planning learning experiences for each student, targeting their needs.

Last Thursday students participated in a Health and Wellbeing talk delivered by Mr Zac Russ, an NRL Game Development Officer. Zac engaged students in discussion around healthy food and lifestyle choices through games, short films and good questioning. It was enjoyed by all.

This Friday the senior students will be attending the Guyra Central School swimming carnival, held at Guyra Pool. Next Friday all students will be attending the Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival at Guyra Pool. Please complete the attached permission slips if you have not already and return them to school as soon as possible.

Music Education Australia is running lessons at the school this term on Monday afternoons. I will be the second adult on site and am happy to volunteer my time to supervise children before or after their lessons. Please complete the permission slip attached if your child will be attending the program.

The P&C have very kindly offered to financially support the operation of an After School Activities Program and Homework Centre two days a week. The cost of the program will be $5 per child per afternoon and these funds will go to the P&C to assist with covering the cost of the program. Mrs Deborah Moore will be coordinating the afternoon activities. A revised term calendar which includes the dates of the Music Education Australia lessons and the After School Activities Program is attached to this newsletter. Please discard the previous calendar.

Students at Black Mountain develop Resilience, persistence, confidence, organisation and getting along skills, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge to be successful members of society. Opportunities are endless at Black Mountain.

Belinda Baker, Principal

From the Principal’s desk ...

**Artist of the Week** ...

Laurence Kuchlmayr
Blue Mountains
Children must ‘turn up’ to learn. Please take time to read through the attached document on the importance of students regularly attending school.

Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival ...

The Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival will be held at the Guyra Swimming Pool on Friday, February 20, and all students Transition–Year 6 will be attending the event. Students will travel by bus which will leave school at 9:30am.

All students will be required to pay $3.50 to the pool on the day. There will be many students attending from all schools so parents should send $3.50 cash per child in to school so that Mrs Baker can pay for entry of all students at the one time, which will make entry to the pool quicker.

Please complete the permission note attached to this newsletter and return it, together with the pool entry fee, as soon as possible. **If your child has a pool pass please indicate this on the permission note.**

Students will be able to purchase food from the canteen on the day, but are encouraged to ensure they bring a water bottle from home to drink throughout the day. The carnival will begin at 10:00am.

Students can be collected from the pool at 2:20pm, or can return to school on the school bus to return home as normal. Please indicate how you child will be leaving from the carnival. Thank you to Faye and Joseph George for providing our return travel free of charge.

Guyra Central School Swimming Carnival ...

The senior students will now be attending the Guyra Central School swimming carnival on Friday, February 13, as it will take place prior to the District Swimming Carnival. The carnival will begin at 9:15am. **No charge will occur for this visit. The school will cover the cost.**

After School Activities Program ...

Attached is information about the Term 1 After School Activities Program. If you wish your child to participate, please complete the permission notes and return them, together with payment, to school.

Book Club ...

This year Scholastic has introduced 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.

School Photos February 18 ...

School photos will take place on Wednesday, February 18. The photographer arrives at school at 8:00am to take staff photos and is happy to begin photographing students as soon as he can.

Please ensure your child arrives at school in full summer school uniform by no later than 8:40am to ensure the photographs can be taken quickly, causing little disruption to student learning.

All orders must be in by the February 18 as the photographer will take all orders with him.

Transition to Kindergarten ...

The Transition to Kindergarten program will begin this week. Mrs Sally Castle will be coordinating the program. All children starting school in 2016 are welcome to attend.

The cost will remain at $15 per day and provides students with the foundations to start school with ease and confidence.

Please contact the school if you know of any families with children starting school in 2016 who might be interested in this fantastic initiative.
Introducing

**Book Clubs LOOP**

for Parents

NOW AVAILABLE AS AN APP!

**LOOP** is the **NEW** Scholastic Book Clubs **Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.**

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or download our **NEW** iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

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 New South Wales Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurring 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 and how to treat them can be found at https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/language/advanced/firstaid/headlice/infosheet.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.

Late times are 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/lanuagesupport/documents/index_s.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:

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.

English 2
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<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan/Feb</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26 Australia Day</td>
<td>27 Staff Development Day</td>
<td>28 Students Return</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31/1</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
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<td>3 Welcome BBQ 5.30pm P&amp;C Meeting 7:00pm</td>
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<td>5 Wellbeing Talk K-6</td>
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<td>7/8</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9 Music Education Australia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 AAAP /HWC</td>
<td>12 AAAP /HWC</td>
<td>13 Guyra Swimming Carnival Years 3-6</td>
<td>14/15</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
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<td>16 Music Education Australia</td>
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<td>18 School Photographs AAAP /HWC</td>
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<td>20 Small Schools’ Swimming Carnival All students</td>
<td>21/22</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>23 Music Education Australia</td>
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<td>25 AAAP /HWC</td>
<td>26 Leadership Assembly 2:00pm AAAP/HWC</td>
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<td>3 AAAP/HWC P&amp;C Meeting 6:00pm</td>
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<td>18 Harmony Day Activities AAAP/HWC</td>
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<td>25 AAAP /HWC</td>
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<td>Mar/Apr</td>
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<td>30 Music Education Australia</td>
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<td>2 Easter Celebration Last Day of Term</td>
<td>3 Easter Friday</td>
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AAAP – After School Activities Program  
HWC – Homework Centre