Thank you to all those parents that came along to our parent information sessions last Tuesday. It was great to see so many parents taking an interest in their children’s education. For those that were unable to make it, your child’s teacher will have sent home an outline of what they spoke about. If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting your child’s teacher.

**ATTENDANCE**

As you all know attendance at school is vital for student achievement. Put simply, if you’re not here then you can’t access the curriculum. Research makes clear links between student results and absenteeism. Your child’s attendance habits for secondary school, university and their work life are being shaped by you in their early years of schooling.

Please remember parents must explain absences within 7 days with either a note or using the skoolbag app. After seven days the absence is listed as unexplained.

Birthdays and holidays are not justifiable reasons for absence and will be marked as unjustified, even with a note. Leave can only be granted under certain circumstances. Please drop in to the office if you have any questions regarding student absences.

**MOVING INTO YEAR 7 IN 2017**

If you have a child in year 6, they will receive the ‘Moving into year 7’ booklet early next week. This booklet has lots of useful information about moving into high school (yes you do need to start thinking about this already). At the back of the booklet is a form that **MUST BE COMPLETED** and returned to school by **Friday 18 March**. Even if your child is not attending a government school you need to return the completed form.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

It’s that time of year again. School photos will be held on Thursday 10 March. Your child will have already received their photo envelope. These should be returned ON PHOTO DAY. Even if you will not be purchasing photos we ask that you still return your envelope on the day. Payment can also be made online directly to the photographer.
ZONE SWIMMING
Congratulations to all of our swimmers who competed at the Zone swimming carnival at Swansea last Monday and Wednesday. All of our students were well behaved and showed great sportsmanship. Good luck to those swimmers who have qualified for the Regional carnival later this week.

ICAS COMPETITIONS
The University of New South Wales is offering students the opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). The competition offers assessments in the following areas:

- Digital Technologies: Yrs 3-7
- Writing: Yrs 3-7
- Spelling: Yrs 3-7
- Science: Yrs 2-12
- English: Yrs 2-12
- Mathematics: Yrs 2-12

Each assessment has a cost involved. Assessments take place from May through to August and range in cost from $8.80 - $18.70. If you would like more information or an entry form please see Mrs Clark in the office. Entries must be in by 5 April, 2016.

BICYCLE USER CONTRACT
Students who ride to and from school and are aged 10, 11 or 12 years old must sign a 2016 Bicycle User’s Contract. Forms are available from the school office. Please note that students under 10 years of age may only ride to and from school with adult supervision.

SCHOOL PLAN 2015-2017
Our school plan is now in its second year of implementation. This plan will provide the school with direction over the next 2 years. Through consultation with staff and parents 3 key strategic directions were developed:

1. Teaching and Learning - To develop teacher capacity through staff engagement in best practice and meaningful professional learning, in order to improve student learning outcomes.
2. Student - All students become successful, confident and creative learners, and active and informed citizens, through effective student wellbeing programs, school systems and processes. Students access the curriculum at an appropriate level and through dynamic and innovative approaches in order to optimise learning outcomes.
3. Partnerships - Engagement of students, staff, parents, the wider community and local LMG schools through school practices that encourage and promote meaningful relationships and support transition to and from Blacksmiths Public School. Students engage with their own learning, school, and community and make global connections. Staff engages with students, parents, LMG and the wider DEC community to inform learning programs, build relationships and build capacity to improve student learning outcomes.

We will develop our strategic directions through the implementation of L3 and Focus on Reading (literacy programs), PLAT (Powerful Learning Accountable Teaching), collaborative planning and assessment practices, transition programs and a review of our student wellbeing processes throughout 2016.

LMBR
Throughout the next few weeks and leading up to Term 3 the school will be implementing a new finance and student management system. This is part of a state rollout that will replace the existing system. This will require quite a lot of training for both Mrs Clark, Mrs White and myself. As a result of this training you may see some new faces in the office from time to time. This will also mean that there may be a delay in some administration processes. We ask for you patience during this time. There will come a point in Term 2 where our bank account will be closed while we transfer to the new system. Payments will not be accepted during this time, A note will go home closer to this date to ensure that important payments are made before this happens to minimise disruption to student activities.
SCHOOL UNIFORM
Our students are looking fantastic in their uniform. Congratulations to everyone for making such a great effort to ensure your child/ren are in the correct uniform each day. Please remember that (predominantly) black or white shoes are also a part of school uniform.

Jewellery, including necklaces, dangly earrings and bangles ARE NOT part of our uniform. Please ensure that your child does not wear these to school. These types of items can pose a safety risk when students are participating in PE activities or during play.

P&C MEETING
Special Guests (Fireman and Principal)
Our next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March. As part of this meeting Mrs Robyn Leggatt will speak in regards to enrolment at Swansea High School. This is a great opportunity for parents of Year 5 & 6 students to come along and hear about what’s happening at Swansea High and ask any questions they may have.

Swansea Fire Station is currently advertising vacancies for three (3) positions for Retained Fire-fighters to be on call from home or work to respond to emergencies. As they are seeking applicants with daytime availability (ideally between 7am - 5pm on weekdays), these positions may be suitable for shift-workers or stay-at-home parents. A representative from the Swansea Fire Brigade will also be at the meeting to discuss the positions.

Aaron Quinnell
Principal

OFFICE NEWS
The following payments are due soon or are overdue. Statements will be sent home next week for monies owing and prompt payment would be appreciated.

Resource Packs: $35.00 Overdue
Year 5/6 Camp 2nd Instalment: $50.00 Due 14 March

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
Uniform orders can be placed at the school office at any time and will be filled as soon as possible by our new Uniform Shop Co-ordinator, Julie Miller.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS - Weeks 4 & 5

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<th>K/1</th>
<th>Cruz R</th>
<th>Levi C</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Maili P</td>
<td>Zahlee P</td>
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<td>1/2</td>
<td>Shaylee U</td>
<td>Madison H</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cameron R</td>
<td>Summa R</td>
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<td>3/4/5</td>
<td>Blake C</td>
<td>Chey E</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ethan A</td>
<td>Kahlia C</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Max G</td>
<td>Tom R</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Riley W</td>
<td>Kira V</td>
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QUALITY WORK AWARDS

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<tr>
<th>K/1</th>
<th>Ryan L</th>
<th>Luca B</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Grace H</td>
<td>Kayla K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4/5</td>
<td>Atlanta K</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Olivia R</td>
<td>Lani H</td>
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COMMUNITY NOTICES

SUPERHERO STRIDE
Anyone can be a superhero. Don a cape and mask and join us for the inaugural Superhero Stride along the Newcastle Foreshore on Sunday 22 May. The Stride is an easy 3km fundraising walk for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Open to people of all ages and fitness levels. There are great prizes on offer for the best dressed Superheroes and heroic fundraisers. Visit www.superherostride.com for more information or contact Kylie on 4952 0000.

AUSTRALIAN AIR LEAGUE
If you’re male, over 8 yrs old and interested in aviation, come and visit our Belmont Squadron! Cadets will participate in:
* Aviation theory
* Marching drills
* Recreational camps
* Flying days

For more information call 0409 030 867 or visit www.airleague.com.au
Art Classes!

I hold art classes for 8 years to adults. Students will learn with acrylics, inks, water colours, mixed media and journaling.

Kids Classes—everything is supplied. Held every Tuesday and Wednesday from 4.30-6pm (excluding school holidays). Paintings are sealed and made ready to hang.

Adult Classes are held every Thursday from 4.30-6.30pm (including school holidays). Paint and brushes are available or you can bring your own along with a canvas or whatever you would like to paint on. All you need is your imagination and be prepared to have a fun time.

Phone Janelle on 0423 209 142 for further details.

Janelle Cookson Art
www.facebook.com/JanelleCooksonArt

DYSLEXIA OR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES?

Some children experience reading and learning difficulties as a result of visual perception problems caused by

Irlen Syndrome/Scotopic Sensitivity
Irlen Syndrome can cause Dyslexia and difficulties with:
- Spelling
- Writing
- Comprehension
- Concentration
- Fatigue
- Eye Strain

IRLEN DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC NEWCASTLE
Regional Clinics
Taree: 0409653700
Coffs Harbour: 0437698559
Singleton: 49556904
www.irlendyslexia.com

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