Congratulations to all our school leaders who made their pledge to the school last Thursday and then accepted their badges. Our school leaders have been doing a wonderful job in their roles and at the swimming carnival last week our House Captains and Vice-Captains showed great leadership in their new roles. Well done everyone.

Captains: Sam A & Jemma H

Vice Captains: Deekon M & Ashleigh S.

Prefects: Scott F & Georgia D.
Community support for Mrs Mac (McGuigan) was outstanding with our out of uniform day and other donations from families raising just over $700. I know the family has really appreciated this support. The good news is that although Mr McGuigan is still in hospital his condition continues to improve. Mrs Mac has sent this message and asked that it be included in the letter:

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, parents and children of Blackalls Park for their support during the past week. It is so lovely to have so many people thinking of us. I’m looking forward to seeing you all back at school in the near future.

Mrs Mac and Family.

Lateness for some students is a continuing concern. Students who continually arrive late are at a severe disadvantage to those that are on time each day. A 10 minute lateness means that by the time a student has gone to the office, reaches the classroom and is ready to learn they have actually missed about 20 minutes. This is also very disruptive to the teachers and other students. There is a great deal of learning taking place in this time and it is when students are at their most receptive for learning. Mornings are a busy time in most households. Having bags packed the night before, uniform ready, and even having lunch organised as much as possible (no one likes soggy sandwiches) will help reduce stress in the mornings. Consistently arriving late to school also sends the message to the students that school is not that important. Don’t forget to let someone know if you are having constant trouble getting your child to school. This is no fun for anyone and we have a number of strategies that may be able to assist you.

Merrita Jeffrey
Principal

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – PROCEDURES

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, monitors part or whole day absences.

Principals may grant:

• sick leave to students whose absences are satisfactorily explained as being due to illness. The principal may request a medical certificate when absences are frequent or prolonged.
• ‘Leave’ to students totaling not more than 15 days per school year.

Principals may decline to accept as satisfactory an explanation for an absence. In this case a capital ‘A’ would be marked in the roll to denote an unjustified absence.

Applications for leave in excess of 15 days (eg. for family holidays, domestic necessity, employment or health of the child) should be treated as applications for exemption from school attendance. Application for Exemption forms are available from the school and must be returned to the principal before the leave is required allowing time (at least 14 school days) for the application to be processed.

Home School Liaison Officers conduct regular roll audits of school attendance registers and provide support to principals when a student’s pattern of attendance is of concern.

SCHOOL PHOTOS: School photos are Tuesday 19 March.

Don’t forget: ON THE DAY OF THE PHOTOS, RETURN YOUR CORRECT PAYMENT AND PHOTO ENVELOPE (no change will be given)
• If you require family photos please collect a family photo envelope from the office.
Merit Awards

Week 4 – Term 1

K-1N
Zac W
Mia A
Kade M
Trying hard with writing.
Lovely enthusiasm for learning.
Super sight word knowledge.

K-1H
Lachlan B
Abigail L
Tegan W
Great letter writing.
Amazing reading.
Lovely expression when reading.

1-2A
Callan G
Cianna B
Lainee P
A reliable computer helper.
A great attitude towards learning.
Always having a smile on her face.

1-2FM
Julio P
Cameron D
Molly W
Working neatly and efficiently.
Trying hard with spelling.
Trying hard to complete tasks.

2-3C
Lauren P
Cameron W
Lochlan B
Always trying hard.
Trying hard with all of his work.
An amazing attitude and awesome effort.

3-4F
Anika W
Jerremie A
Joshua F
Increased effort in class.
Being the quiet achiever.
Trying to be organized.

4-5H
Kodi P
Ellen E
Jessie H
Improved organisation skills.
Creative, creative writing.
Improved attitude and effort.

5-6M
Chelsea J
Claudia H
Nicholas B
Excellence in mathematics.
Consistent excellence in behaviour.
Creative recycling models.

5-6WB
Lewis H
Jemma H
Ashleigh S
Trying hard in literacy class.
Being a good role model.
Always doing her best.

Students of the Week

K-1N
Kabe C
3-4F
Brianna W

K-1H
Hannah M
4-5H
Pans P

1-2A
Shenae G
5-6M
Sean H

1-2FM
Emilie C
5-6WB
Claudia H

2-3C
Wilson E

Dance
Jemma H
Benjamin D
Band
Blake S

“YOU CAN DO IT” AWARD WINNERS

K-1N
Zane H
3-4F
Destiny F

K-1H
Kayleb M
4-5H
Shai F

1-2A
Jack F
5-6M
Brodie-May C

1-2FM
Rhys B
5-6WB
Georgia D

2-3C

From next Monday 4th March our Kindergarten students will finish at the same time as all our students.

3:00pm
The Act of Kindness Award
Term 1 Week 4 went to Zali Weimer
for assisting kindergarten students in the playground.

The Act of Kindness Award
Term 1 Week 5 went to Zali Brush
for being a wonderfully tolerant and kind friend.

From the Administration office

2013 Text and Material charges – Our text and material charges are just $38.00 per child for the entire year. We are asking you to pay this as soon as possible so your child can receive their equipment. If there is a concern with payment please see Miss Jeffrey or Mr Mason at the office and a payment plan can be arranged.

We have been asked to pass on this information below to all families

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
MOTHERS DAY

Our Mother’s Day presents are pre-ordered by the children. This will need to be completed early to ensure the gifts are available. Order forms were sent home last week. Please complete and return to the office by Wednesday 6th March. Children will receive the gifts prior to Mother’s Day. 1 child order per envelope please.

Monday mornings 8:45 – 9:15pm
Wednesday afternoons 2.30 – 3.00pm

PLEASE NOTE – THE CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED EVERY THURSDAY

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>8 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jodie G</td>
<td>Mel F</td>
<td>Alex W</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
<td>Mel F, Sheree R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon W</td>
<td>Caroline D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linda I, Christina F</td>
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Disclaimer: Blackalls Park Public does not necessarily endorse the services or products, which may be included in or attached to this newsletter and is in no way responsible for any issues arising from use of the services or products offered. No responsibility is accepted for errors or omissions.

TORONTO NETBALL REGISTRATIONS
THIS FRIDAY 1st MARCH
3pm – 5 pm at Ron Hill Oval Courts
ALL AGES
Ph: Tracey 0402 507 121
Or Joan 49 595706

Come and enjoy netball, it’s a great team sport.
5th February 2013

INFORMATION EVENING INVITATION

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

You and your child are invited to attend an information evening for students entering **Year 7 in 2014**.

The information evening is designed to:

- Explain the process of applying for an enrolment at Toronto High School and a timeline of events.
- Outline the transition program.
- Detail the structure of core classes for Year 7 2014.
- Outline the Talent Enrichment Program.
- Provide information about what your child will be studying in 2014.
- Meet the key staff for Year 7, 2014.
- Introduce the application process and information about the Gifted and Talented Class – The Catalina Academy for Innovation in Learning (CAIL) in 2014.

There will be the opportunity for you to ask questions and speak with key staff members after the presentation.

**Parents of students in Years 3, 4 & 5 are also welcome to attend** the evening. This provides families with an opportunity to gather information to assist them in making an informed decision of future high school selection.

Tea and coffee will be provided on the night.

**WHEN:** 6.30pm – 7.30pm Wednesday 6th March 2013.

**WHERE:** Toronto High School Hall (MPC).

I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Mark McConville

Principal