Dear Parents/Guardians & Students

We commenced with a new and improved Values Education Program at the College this year and you will notice new signs in the classrooms and on campus. You will find a little more about this new program further in the newsletter. On Monday, 21 March the primary school celebrated Harmony Day. The students were divided into 7 groups with students from Kindergarten to Year 6 in each group. Each group spent 30 minutes in each teachers’ classroom, or outside the classroom participating in activities from another country. Some of the activities were paintings, music activities, outdoor games and cultural dance. Countries included Africa, Vietnam, Philippines, New Zealand, Japan, South Pacific Islands and India. (more photos on the College Facebook page).

Calendar

- **HSC Mid Year Exams**
  17-24 March
- **Easter Weekend**
  25-28 March
- **Cross Country**
  30 March
- **Year 11/12 Trip to Sydney**
  3-6 April
- **Last Day Term 1**
  8 April
- **Big Camp**
  15-23 April
- **Parent/Teacher Interviews**
  27 April
- **Open Day**
  1 May
General School News

Piano Lessons at School
Students can access piano lessons at school. Ms Lisa Pirlo (AMusA, LMusA, TMusA) an excellent tutor with 20 years experience offer lessons at a reasonable fee of $30 per half hour on Tues & Wed during school hours. Please contact Mr Neuhoff, or Mrs Pirlo directly on 0434997371 if you are interested as soon as possible.

Year 11/12 trip to Sydney
Our Year 11/12 students will be travelling to Sydney and Avondale College on Sunday, 3 April, and will return on Wednesday, 6 April. They will be visiting Avondale College to experience University for 2 days, check out all the courses on offer, what dormitory life will be like, etc. They will also visit a Jewish Synagogue as part of their Studies in Religion curriculum, Sydney Aquarium and Wildlife World. We trust that they will have a wonderful time and wish them a safe journey.

Big Camp Volunteers
This will be the last year of our contract to run the Big Camp store as part of our fundraising project for the primary school classrooms. Big Camp is taking place between 15-23 April at Stuarts Point. We are looking for volunteers to help us staff the store during this time. A roster will be set up with shifts for all the helpers. We need people to help with the cash registers, selling pies, stacking shelves, etc. If you are willing and able to help us in the store during this time, I would be very happy to hear from you as soon as possible. Please phone the principal at school or send an email: cneuhoff@bluehills.nsw.edu.au

Cross Country Carnival
We would like to invite you to come and join us here on campus on Wednesday, 30 March, for our Cross Country Carnival. A letter will be forwarded to you with all the necessary information. If the weather is kind to us, we will have a fun morning and students can compete in the annual Cross Country.

School Photos
We trust that you have received your child’s school photos by now. If your child missed out due to being absent on the day, please take note that there will be another opportunity for school photos in August. Please don’t hesitate to contact us, if you had any problems with your photos.

Casino Church Service
Thank you very much to all our parents and friends who came to support and/or participate in our first church service, which was at Casino this year. The students did a great job and we were very proud of them. Please check our FB page for photos!!

Hot Cross Bun Drive
We are sad to report that we had to cancel our Hot Cross Bun Drive this year. The company we used last year has closed down and we were not able to secure Hot Cross Buns from another company at a good price for this annual fundraising event. We will continue to contact some other bakeries to try and source a new company for next year. Please accept our apologies for the inconvenience.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
The Parent/Teacher Interviews are scheduled for Wednesday, 27 April, from 3.30—6.30 pm. A letter with all the necessary instructions and details will be forwarded to you in the next few days. This will tell you how to make an interview booking with a teacher. We allow 10 minutes for each interview because our time is limited. Please make a double booking if you feel you will need more time.

Interim Reports
We are currently working towards completing and distributing the students’ interim school reports in the last week of the term to ensure that you have it ready for the Parent/Teacher Interviews.
YOU CAN DO IT!

What is ‘YOU CAN DO IT?’

YOU CAN DO IT! EDUCATION’S (YCDI’S) main purpose is to support communities, schools, and homes in a collective effort to optimize the social, emotional, and academic outcomes of all young people. Its unique contribution is in identifying the social and emotional capabilities that all young people need to acquire in order to be successful in school, experience wellbeing, and have positive relationships.

Of first importance is that we all understand that we are all CHARACTER EDUCATORS! Whether you are a parent, teacher, administrator, nurse, fireman, bus driver …… WE ARE ALL helping to shape the character of the kids we come in contact with. It’s in the way we talk, the behaviours we model, the conduct we tolerate, the deeds we encourage, the expectations we transmit.

Yes, for better or for worse, WE ARE ALL already doing character education. The real question is – what kind? Are we doing it well or poorly? What kind of values are we actually teaching?

Blue Hills College staff completed training in the YCDI program last year. This year, during Term 1, it is being introduced into our classrooms PK – Yr 12. It is a whole school approach to helping our students become people who understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values.

Our yearly plan is to focus on five key values throughout all classes. RESILIENCE, GETTING ALONG, ORGANISATION, PERSISTENCE AND CONFIDENCE.

This is a school/community based program, so there will be more information throughout next term.

Values Education Coordinator
Mrs Julie Jackson
On Friday, 18 March, the Year 11 Biology students went to Ballina to learn more about Mangroves and they did some practical work at Flat Rock.

Prayer List

At Blue Hills College, we believe in the power of prayer. Please contact us if you would like to share specific prayer requests with our staff. We ask you to join us in praying for specific individuals, both students and staff.

“Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.” (Phil 4:6-7, MSG)

21 March Shenae Flanagan Malcome Goltz
22 March Brodie Lockhart Jack Lynch
23 March Nicholas Newell Loc Nguyen
24 March Mia Osborne Isaac Rapmund
25 March Good Friday
Staff Allison Parkinson Charl Neuhoff
28 March Easter Monday Jayd Whicker Tayla Wood
30 March Alyssa Batuese Daniel Benfield
31 March Fletcher Bond Abby Brunton
1 April Elke Bulmer Malachi Canning
Staff Hayden Ward Julie Jackson

Please check our Facebook page for regular reminders and lots of photos!! Please ‘Like’ our FB page!!