Dear Parents/Guardians & Students

As a science teacher, I find nature fascinating. We all know that when humans and other mammals freeze, it results in frostbite or death, but God has given some species of snakes and frogs, which live in very cold climates, the ability to survive being frozen! This capacity is not fully understood but is achieved by two possible mechanisms. One is called “freezing tolerance” where the body is able to survive freezing and the destructive ice formation in tissue cells followed by thawing. This is very rare. The other more common condition is “freeze avoidance” or “supercooling.” In this process, the body contains substances such as glycerol which acts like a natural antifreeze and prevents ice formation in tissue cells.

For instance, below frozen lakes and ponds, painted turtles can stay submerged and motionless for as long as three months, but they never actually freeze. It’s still a mystery how they can survive in this state of suspended animation for so long with zero blood oxygen! Humans, by contrast, begin to suffer irreversible nerve damage if oxygen to the brain is cut off for more than four minutes. Freezing will kill many cold-blooded species. But there are some amphibians and reptiles that hibernate at or near the soil surface where temperatures can drop substantially below the freezing point of their body fluids. These creatures have the amazing ability to endure the freezing of water in extracellular body compartments. In fact, among some frogs, as much as 65% of their total body water may be converted to ice. In this state, they can survive days or weeks of sub-zero conditions. When the spring thaw comes, the spark of life activates their muscles and they appear to return to life as if resurrected.

Since God can design cells that survive freezing, it’s easier to believe He can order the molecules of a dead body to be reconstituted. Millions find it difficult to believe in the resurrection. But if you know the power of God in your own life, if you have experienced His re-creative power in your heart, you will be convinced that He truly is the giver of life.

Mr Carel Neuhoff (Principal)
Primary School News

Show Day—Primary Choir

The Primary choir were able to perform 2 songs at the Lismore Show. They sang beautifully and we were very proud of them.

Show Day—Primary

All of the Primary students had the opportunity to attend the annual Lismore show on Thursday, 20 October. The weather was great and the students had a wonderful time looking at all of the exhibits - everything from cattle to emergency services, lego competitions, a circus, making our own smoothies by peddling really hard on bicycles and lots of really cool looking chooks! We can’t wait to do it again next year.

Rewards Day—Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed their rewards afternoon on Monday, October 31. The primary school has a competition every term to see which class has the most students who read every night of the week. In term 3 the Year 5 class was the winning class and were able to spend the afternoon at the Goonellabah Sports and Aquatic Centre, swimming and having fun on the waterslide. Well Done Year 5.

Malachi Para Athlete

Congratulations! once again
State All Schools Athletics
Bronze in Shot Put
Silver in Discus
Year 6 Transition Days  
Wednesday 26 October and 2 November

It can be daunting for a Primary School student to visit the High School, but Blue Hills College made that transition easy, entertaining and exciting. We had 27 students visiting us from our Primary School and also other Primary Schools in the area. Students got the chance to get to know the teachers, but also, the teachers got a bit of a taste of what next year will bring!

The students had the opportunity to learn more about the different subjects, like Bible, Wood Technology, Mathematics, History/Geography, English Computing and Science. However, I think most of them enjoyed making pancakes, painting Koy fish in Art, doing a Science experiment and playing Sport with the other High School Students. We are impressed as a staff with the calibre of students in Year 6 and are looking forward to Year 7 next year.

Year 10 Banquet

The Year 10 Banquet was held last Thursday night and by all accounts the students and parents had a great time. Events like these build a sense of community and a deeper understanding of families and students that make Blue Hills College special. Thanks to Heather Kingston and the team that prepared the food and waited on the Year 10 students and their families.
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)