Dear Parents/Guardians & Students

This past week I was searching for some quality honey, but not the type you buy at the supermarket, and in the process came to realise that to produce about 500g of honey, bees must make 25,000 trips between their hive and the flowers from which they gather precious nectar. Furthermore, that same amount of honey contains the essence of about two million flowers! In the process of making this honey, bees provide a crucial service to nature—pollination. Albert Einstein once remarked that “If bees were to disappear, man would only have a few years to live.” This statement is especially sobering when you consider the recent decimating plague among U.S. bee colonies called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

Just before the beginning of 2007, beekeepers from all over North America began reporting colonies of their bees dying off in unprecedented numbers. Twenty-four U.S. States reported honeybees vanishing at an alarming rate, leaving beekeepers struggling for survival and farmers worried about pollination of their crops. The mysterious disappearance of bees ranges from 30 to 70 percent in some States. Blooming orchards that used to roar with buzzing bees are now strangely silent. One California beekeeper said, “I have never seen anything like it. Box after box after box is just empty. There’s nobody home.”

Experts are exploring several theories to explain the losses from CCD. These include viruses, mites, pesticide contamination and, strangely enough, poor bee nutrition. The mysterious colony collapse disorder highlights the fundamental role that honeybees play in the natural chain of God’s economy, providing fruit and vegetables. Honeybee pollination contributes more than $14 billion worth of North American harvests each year. I wonder how much that will be in Australia. A broad assortment of crops like apples, peaches, avocados, soybeans, pears, pumpkins, cucumbers, cherries, kiwis, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, and many more, depend on honey bee pollination. Some have suggested that if all honeybees suddenly died off, it would bring their vital work of pollination to an end. This environmental breakdown could easily cause an agricultural and economic chain reaction leading to a financial collapse and possibly a national famine.

Who would have guessed the work of these little creatures was so important! Maybe that’s why the Bible has so much to say about honey! King Solomon said, “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones” (Proverbs 16:24). May you have a great term ahead and use only words as sweet and pleasant as honey! Keep in mind how important bees are in the world we live in.
This term Year 1 is learning about procedures. Last week we read a recipe book about making scones and we decided to try the recipe out. On Monday we broke into four groups and made four batches of scones. It was delightful to watch the children with their hands in the dough. One of the focuses of our group work was letting other people go first. I really enjoyed hearing the students saying 'You go first' - not something six and seven year olds (or any children for that matter) often say. The photo is of the children doing a maths lesson outside the Food Tech. room while the scones were cooking. They are learning about vertical, horizontal and parallel lines - and doing hand actions to match. It was a wonderful day and was enjoyed (especially the scones, jam and cream) by all.

On the last week of term 2, Year 5 and 6 went on an excursion to Sydney. The students had an amazing time visiting many historical and interesting places. On the first night they braved the coldest June night in Sydney in 10 years to sleep in tents and experience a little of what it was like back in the convict days. More about convicts was experienced the following night whilst sleeping at the barracks in hammocks. They also visited Parliament House and The Police and Justice Museum. The boys in particular enjoyed going to the Sydney Cricket ground and the ANZ stadium and sitting in the change rooms where the cricket players sit.

Games at Bondi beach were also a highlight and some of the students were able to meet one of the Lifesavers from Bondi Rescue. To finish off the trip we swam at the Sydney Aquatic Centre at Homebush Bay. Tired and ready for the trip home.

(SEE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP ON PAGE 5)

A BIG congratulations to Malachi Canning. On Friday, 22 July, Malachi travelled to Eastern Creek in Sydney to compete at the NSW State All Schools Cross Country where he was placed 3rd. Malachi has now qualified to compete at the Nationals in Canberra on the 19 August. We wish you all the best.

On Tuesday, 9 August, our primary choir will be performing at the Lismore Eisteddfod. This will be our first performance at Lismore City Hall for many years. Please come along at approx. 10:20am as all are welcome to support us. Below is a picture of us practicing.

THE PRE-KINDY PHOTOS (AS WELL AS ANY NEW STUDENTS OR STUDENTS WHO HAVE MISSED OUT ON THEIR SCHOOL PHOTO) HAS NOW CHANGED TO

Monday, 15 August, 2016.

(envelopes can be picked up from College office)
General School News

LEAP Program
As part of the LEAP program this semester, there are a number of groups developing resources to be sold in a shop type scenario. These include crafts, candles, food, plants etc. One of these is focussing on recycling clothing. If you have anything that can be sold by this group, could you please send it into the school addressed to Mrs Neuhoff.

Japanese Visit
Japanese students and teachers interacting with each other.

Sport
Here are the winners of the Athletics carnival who received awards. Well done!
“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I have put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand - shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16-16 (msg)

HSC Tips and Advice Nights at Lismore Library

| Thursday 11 August | 4.45pm - Ancient History Core
| 5.45pm - History Extension |
| Thursday 18 August | 4.45pm - PDHPE
| Tips for planning for the exam and structuring responses.
| 5.45pm - Legal Studies |
| Thursday 25 August | 4.45pm - English
| 5.45pm - Drama |

Come along and get tips and advice from local teachers who have HSC marking experience. Get your questions answered!

Refreshments provided.
Bookings essential.
Please take note that we changed the date for the Year 10 Information Night. It will now be held on Monday, 15 August, at 6.00—7.15pm here at school. This is a very important evening for parents and students commencing their Year 11 (preliminary HSC) studies in 2017. Subject options will be discussed, subject lines, requirements for HSC, exams, ATARs, etc. The information will assist students with their pattern of study selections for the HSC course. Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the evening.
### 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 disposes worry at the center of your life.” (Phil 4:6-7, MSG)

### Piano Lessons

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 Mrs Pirlo directly on 0434997371 if you are interested.

### Fire Wood for sale

Lismore Pathfinder Club as part of our annual fundraiser is again able to supply your firewood needs. Cost is $100 per box trailer load, split and delivered. To order contact Warren Lemke on 0422587624.

### REMINDER—Excursion Payment Due

This is a reminder that the final payment for the Field Trip to the Warrumbungles and Lightning Ridge is due by 19 August 2016. Payments can be made by Cash, Cheque, EFTPOS at the College Office or by Direct Deposit.

Bank Account Details for Direct Deposit are:-

**BSB:** 032-539  **Account:** 22-7539

*(please ensure you leave student's name and description as a payment reference)*

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