Welcome to
Blackwood Primary School

An IB school valuing, supporting and inspiring
a community of lifelong learners
A very warm welcome to Blackwood Primary School. We hope your association with our school will be a happy and rewarding one.

At Blackwood Primary School we provide a quality education for students from Reception to Year 7.

We offer a comprehensive educational programme delivered by a very dedicated and professional staff whose experience and expertise benefit all the students we teach.

We pride ourselves on high standards in education, sporting pursuits and our ability to provide each student with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for life-long learning and global citizenship.

Please do not hesitate to make contact with your child’s classroom teacher or myself in order to closely monitor your child’s educational achievements or to clarify any issues that may arise.

We look forward to working in partnership in the education of your children.

Phil Garner
Principal
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Our School

Blackwood Primary School is a school of approximately 320 students housed in solid construction buildings. The extensive grounds offer five hectares of shaded play area and playgrounds. The students at Blackwood Primary School come from a diverse range of backgrounds, are motivated to learn and enjoy opportunities to demonstrate leadership and initiative. Our staff take seriously their responsibility to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed, and programs are in place to support students who are disadvantaged.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Values

- Care, Harmony and Excellence in a safe environment.
- Respect for others
- Respect for self
- Respect for Teaching and Learning
- Respect for property and the environment
Children and Young People are at the centre of everything we do

The Curriculum

LITERACY
Whole site approach to Literacy with a specific focus on Reading through teacher training and professional development

Well being

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM
Implementation and integration with PYP/MYP IB CURRICULUM implemented through an inquiry based approach that develops critical thinking skills.

Engagement

STUDENT WELL BEING
Concept of wellbeing integrated into curriculum and supported by both academic and non-academic programs

Parents/caregivers engagement

ENGAGEMENT OF LEARNERS
Through professional collaborative reflection, differentiation and a transdisciplinary approach to curriculum delivery. TfEL, RRR EYLF and AC

Professional learning for staff

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES
Focus on TfEL Teacher pedagogy and formative assessment

Assessment and tracking

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
with parents/caregivers, community and business sectors

PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT
Professional Standards for teachers and principals, and IB Programme Standards and Practices

ASSESSMENT
Authentic and targeted assessment strategies
Monitor and track student progress in Literacy and Numeracy
**SCHOOL FACILITIES/SERVICES**

Blackwood Primary School offers outstanding grounds and facilities set well back from main roads and housing. We border, and have private access to Wittunga Botanic Gardens and boast five hectares of tree studded grounds incorporating two ovals, the Gully, tennis/netball courts and three playgrounds.

Our buildings incorporate well appointed double classrooms, a large gymnasium a fully equipped Music Room, Japanese Language classroom, and state of the art Resource Learning Centre. All Classrooms are equipped with sound field and Interactive white boards and are wirelessly connected to the internet and intranet with high speed data connectivity.

We also adjoin the Blackwood High School, which enables seamless transition for our Year 7 students and greater collaboration for our Primary Years Programme (PYP).

**Resource Centre**

The Resource Centre is a modern fully automated library and is in constant use by staff and students. The stocks of fiction, non-fiction, audio-visual and Information Communication Technology (ICT) resources are extensive and are continually being updated. Children are encouraged to borrow on a regular basis and do so using their own library card. Information Communication Technology and Resource Based Learning is a focus for the Resource Centre, which is equipped with 16 computers and laptops, up-to-date software and internet and e-mail access.

**Sporting facilities**

**Tennis Courts**

There are two newly surfaced tennis courts available for students.

**Basketball**

There is one full-sized basketball court on bitumen and one three-quarter court on parquet flooring in the hall. In addition there are several basketball goal posts for the children to practice shooting baskets.

**Football, Soccer and Cricket**

Our North oval provides students with opportunities to play ball sports during recess and lunch and is used for PE Lessons and for weekend sport competitions. Our Southern oval is used for Athletics day and sporting carnivals.

**Adventure Playground**

The Albert Fehlberg Adventure Playground is situated in a natural tree clad gully adjacent to the playing fields. Other playground equipment is located at various places in the school grounds.
Ashby Hall

Constructed in 1992, this building includes a gymnasium and hall area, canteen, uniform shop, multi-purpose room and OHSC. This complex provides an excellent venue for indoor sport and our student-run assemblies. The hall is used extensively for school activities and is hired out on a regular basis to the wider community.

Access to Blackwood Primary School

An overpass bridge across the railway line and a walkway from the Coromandel Railway Station behind the Wittunga Botanic Garden to the school grounds provides easy access for children living south of the school. This rear access is less than one km from Blackwood Park. Access from the north is via Shepherds Hill Road were a school crossing is provided here for student safety.

Car Park

Off street parking is provided and is accessed through a one way system from Shepherds Hill Road with the exit being through Seymour Street. The Kiss and Drop area is a quick and easy facility for parents to drop off children in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon without leaving the car. This allows for easy traffic flow. The school is serviced by trains, stopping at the Coromandel Railway Station and by bus, which stops directly in front of the school at Stop 38. Students living out of the area can use the buses, which service the high school next door. Limited off street parking is available for visitors to the school.

Out of Hours Care

Blackwood Primary School OSHC operates before and after school. This service is well resourced and incorporates many and varied activities coordinated by our Director, Nigel Jamieson. Students are supervised from 7.15am before school and from 2.30pm—6.00pm on Mondays and Tuesday to Friday 3.20pm – 6.00pm after school. We also provide vacation-care during the holidays. For enrolment contact OSHC on 8370 2232 (7.30 - 10.00am and 2.30pm - 6.00pm) Monday to Friday.
SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Times
Children are supervised in the yard from 8.30am
First bell is 8.45am and students make their way to class.
School starts: 8.50am
Recess: 10.50am to 11.10am
Lunch: 1.20pm to 2pm
Monday school finishes at 2.30pm and the yard is supervised until 2.50pm
Tuesday to Friday school finishes at 3.20pm and the yard is supervised until 3.40pm

Enrolment
There are two types of enrolment. One involves students starting school for the first time, usually from a Kindergarten. There is usually plenty of notice regarding this enrolment and we offer a transition programme involving visits to the new class prior to commencing. It is helpful to our planning processes if parents complete the enrolment form well before your child’s start date.
The second type of enrolment involves families moving into the area or changing schools. Once again, the earlier we know of this move the better planned we will be for your child.
The Principal prefers to spend time with parents prior to the child starting and to discuss the learning programme and needs of the student(s)

School Fees and Payment
School fees are set by the Governing Council each year and an invoice which outlines the items included in each charge is sent to parents in the week their child starts school.
For the year 2016 the fees are made up of:
Materials and Services $355.00
Excursions and Performances $45.00
(Swimming, aquatics and camps extra)
Pro rata fees apply to students starting during the year.
Fees can be paid during the first two weeks of Term 1 or soon after transferring into the school. Student stationery is supplied to children at the start of the year. Parents wishing to negotiate instalment payments should do so by the end of week two, term one or soon after starting at the school.

School Card
This facility exists for families experiencing financial hardship to receive Government assistance. This is called School Card. Forms and an outline of the approval process are available upon request from the School office. The excursion levy is not covered by School Card.
Canteen
A canteen lunch service is provided to students and staff everyday via Blackwood High School. Lunches can be ordered by 9am through the online Munch Monitors web site. Lunches are delivered to classrooms at eating time. Please contact Blackwood Primary for Munch Monitors login procedures. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, ice blocks can be purchased during lunchtime from Blackwood Primary School.

We take our duty of care seriously. To ensure the safety of your child(ren). We ask that you support us in the following matters.

Leaving School Grounds
For safety reasons, children are not permitted to leave the grounds during school hours without permission. It is highly desirable that parents/caregivers collect students if they have to leave early. If a parent/caregiver needs to take their child out of school, a sign out book in the School Office needs to be completed.

Absence of Children
It is important for your child’s safety that if he / she is unable to attend school or is going to be late that you phone the school office (8278 5355) before 8.45am, or send a note with another child. The school will contact parents/caregivers if they are not advised of their child’s absence. Students arriving late must sign in at the Front Office before going to class.

Supervision of Yard and Grounds
The playgrounds are supervised from 8.30am until 3.40pm. Students are not permitted to arrive before 8.30am. If a child has not been collected by 3.40pm they should return to the School Office. In the interest of your child’s safety we request that children are not in the grounds unaccompanied outside of these hours.

Newsletters
Newsletters provide an excellent medium for school / home contact. A link to our Blackwood Primary School website is emailed regularly throughout the year. Newsletters contain a balance of information, student work, community notices and sporting results. If you have anything you feel should be shared with the school community, this can be done through the newsletter.

School Uniform
Our school uniform policy is included in the enrolment pack. We require children to wear school uniform, as we believe it demonstrates pride and commitment to the school and helps to address the issue of peer pressure in regard to clothing. The school uniform is also a safety feature of our school, especially on school excursions. The uniform shop is open Monday 8.15-9.15am, Wednesday 12.45-1.30pm, Friday 8.15-9.15am and 3-3.45 pm. For all enquiries contact the Uniform Shop on 0401 913 830 or on the Blackwood Primary School website at www.blackwoodps.sa.edu.au
TERM DATES 2016
Term 1: Monday 1 February - Friday 15 April
Term 2: Monday 2 May - Friday 7 July
Term 3: Monday 24 July - Friday 29 September
Term 4: Monday 17 October - Friday 16 December

TERM DATES 2017
Term 1: Monday 30 January - Friday 13 April
Term 2: Monday 1 May - Friday 7 July
Term 3: Monday 24 July - Friday 29 September
Term 4: Monday 16 October - Friday 15 December

JUNIOR PRIMARY INFORMATION

Transition from pre-school to school
To ensure the smooth transition from pre-school to school, three orientation visits are encouraged in the Term 4 prior to commencing school. A letter is sent to each child inviting them to visit the school and informing you about what to expect during the visit. During these visits your child will visit their new class and meet with the teacher/s. This enables children to become familiar with the classroom setting, be introduced to new friends and the teacher, and helps to make the first experiences of school positive and relaxed. Parents/Caregivers are invited to an information session at the first transition visit. This is a time to find out information about our school and meet new families over a 'cuppa'.

Reception Enrolments
There will be one intake per year.
Child’s birthdate:
from 1 January to 30 April - start school Term 1 of the year they turn 5
from 1 May to 31 December - start school Term 1 of the year after they turn 5

First weeks at school
New Reception children will start on the 1st day of Term 1. They start at 8.50am and generally stay the full day. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to monitor their child’s level of fatigue and discuss this with the teacher. It may be convenient to arrange early dismissal with the teacher. It is important that your child feel rested and energetic if the school experience is to be a happy one.

The first day at school
Parents are encouraged to stay for a short time on the first day. When you collect your child at the end of the day, allow a few minutes to share the day’s experiences with them. Sometimes your child may not wish to discuss their day immediately, so try to engage your child in discussion when they feel ready to do so.
What your child should bring to school?
School bag
Fruit/health eating snack
Recess/morning snack
Lunch in lunch box – lunches may be ordered from the Blackwood HS Canteen
School hat
Painting smock which could be an old shirt
Library Bag – material bag – with a strong shoulder strap, large enough to hold a large picture book.
Spare underwear to be kept in school bag if necessary
All individual belongings need to be clearly labelled.

Preparing your child for school
There are many things that you as a parent can do to prepare your child for school.
Assist them to –
Know their name, address and telephone number
Put away play things and materials after using them
Dress themselves, including trying to tie shoe laces
Know the appropriate use of toilet and related hygiene
Know who will be taking them home after school
Talk to your child about school, their understanding of it, and what they can expect.

Above all encourage your child to be independent and responsible by giving them opportunities to develop these skills, e.g. allowing him/her to make choices, take risks and be responsible for little tasks around the home.
Be patient, proud and encourage your child’s achievements by having a special place to display work. Allow quiet time together for sharing. Talk to your child about starting school, making new friends, learning new skills and experiencing new challenges.

Canteen
A canteen lunch service is provided to students and staff everyday via Blackwood High School. Lunches can be ordered by 9am through the Munch Monitors web site.
Lunches are delivered to classrooms at eating time. Please contact Blackwood Primary for Munch Monitors login procedures.
On Monday, Wednesday & Friday, ice blocks can be purchased during lunchtime from Blackwood Primary School canteen.

Lunch eating time
All children have 10 minutes to eat their lunch between 1.10pm – 1:20pm.
If the temperature is 30° or over the children will be asked to bring their lunches inside the unit, to keep them cool.
**Learning**

Learning is a continuous and active process that produces change. Children acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes as a result of many varied experiences. Children learn in many ways due to personal preference and the nature of the task. This is influenced by the many interactions in the learning environment. Language is important to learning. As a result of thinking and talking about new experiences children are able to incorporate new ideas with existing knowledge. Play is an essential part of a child’s development, as it is a way of understanding personal experiences. Through play and multi-sensory experiences we provide expanding opportunities for them to learn from their own actions and observations. Play also enables children to reinforce learning, set their own goals and build on social skills.

Self-esteem influences learning and a positive self-image enables children to feel confident in new situations. Children are more likely to learn when they are interested and the experience is relevant. It is vital that children experience success in their learning. This is most likely to happen if they work at their own level of ability and engage in challenging tasks where they are encouraged to take risks in their learning. Children learn from each other. Working co-operatively develops positive relationships and provides opportunities for problem solving and decision-making. Children respond to encouragement and recognition in an environment, which values their achievements and provides opportunities for evaluation of their own work and also that of others.

**Reading**

Children start learning to read before starting school. They will have been exposed to writing in many forms, e.g. signs, labels, advertisements, books and magazines. They have probably seen you reading and writing and are able to recognise familiar signs and words. When children start school their expectations are that they will learn to read. Their experiences before school are vital to this process, and experiences at home will always be very important to their success. Reading to your children teaches them about reading. They will learn that reading is an enjoyable experience. They will also learn to recognise print, the language of books, and the relationship between words and pictures. The opportunity to read with a person they trust is a powerful learning experience. Some families make a special time or place for listening to reading. It is important for children to make connections between their own lives and what they are reading and, as parents know them better than anyone else, you can help them do this. Often children will want to read simple books and old favourites over again. This provides useful practice and builds confidence. All learners need to take risks and make meaningful predictions. Allow children plenty of time to do this and experiment. This is one of the most important things they have to learn about being a reader.

It helps if the child is reading a story you have read aloud first. Don’t worry if the reading is not word perfect. Be relaxed and encouraging. Expect success but be patient. There are a variety of resources to help your child with Reading. Please inquire at the School Library.

**Library**

During first term your child will be involved in a library orientation programme. They will be visiting the library at least once a week and will have the opportunity to borrow books on a regular basis. Each child must have a library bag to ensure safekeeping of borrowed books. Please assist your child to develop good borrowing practice by providing a library bag and encouraging the prompt return of borrowed books.
THE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Curriculum
Blackwood Primary School is an International Baccalaureate World School. We have successfully been authorised to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP) from Reception to Year 7. This programme supports the Australian Curriculum.

International Baccalaureate
Underpinning our programmes is the IB Learner Profile, a set of attributes displayed by an internationally minded person. These attributes serve not only as a guide for the kind of student that will graduate from our school, but for all the learners in our school community, students, teachers and parents/caregivers. Our students strive to be:

**Inquirers** They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

**Knowledgeable** They explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

**Thinkers** They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognise and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

**Communicators** They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

**Principled** They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

**Open-minded** They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

**Caring** They show empathy, compassion and respect for the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

**Risk-takers** They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

**Balanced** They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance in achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

**Reflective** They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.
Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) is designed for students between the ages of 3 and 12 years. It is an international, transdisciplinary programme designed to foster the development of the whole child, touching hearts as well as minds and encompassing academic, social, physical, emotional and cultural needs.

Six transdisciplinary themes provide the framework for students to engage in rich, meaningful inquiry. At Blackwood Primary School we have developed a Programme of Inquiry, engaging students in six units of inquiry each year. Covering each of the 8 subject areas, students develop an understanding of important concepts, acquire essential skills and knowledge, develop particular attitudes and learn to take socially responsible action.

Students in their final year of the PYP carry out an extended, collaborative inquiry project known as the exhibition. This represents a significant event in the life of both the school and student, synthesizing the essential elements of the programme and sharing them with the whole school community. It is an opportunity for students to exhibit the attributes of the Learner Profile that have been developed throughout their engagement with the programme.

‘Making the PYP Happen, 2009, International Baccalaureate Organisation’

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (JAPANESE—Reception to Year 7) (GERMAN—Optional in Year 7)

The Languages Learning Area aims to develop in all students:

- their communication potential in the target language
- an understanding of languages and how they work as systems, which contribute to their literacy development
- an understanding of cultures and identities, which contribute to a better understanding of themselves and others
- enhanced social and cognitive capabilities
- expanded general knowledge
- enhanced opportunities to participate meaningfully in voluntary, community paid/unpaid work and further education and training
- capacities to apply learning in languages to other Learning Areas, to life in the wider community and in accessing further education and training.

The benefits of learning languages and cultures extend beyond the individual to the development of a significant resource for communities, with the potential to contribute at both a local and an international level.

Japanese

Blackwood Primary School students learn Japanese as Language Other Than English (LOTE). Studying a foreign language and its associated culture, provides students with the opportunity to become globally aware. Learning an additional language also helps the brain to think laterally, more creatively and ultimately leads to better problem solving skills. Our students are taught the Australian Curriculum for Japanese, which covers learning to use the 3 writing systems, understand written Japanese and to speak. This curriculum is linked to IB Units of Inquiry where applicable. Both the IB Languages Scope and Sequence and the Australian Curriculum Standards are used for assessment. Junior Primary classes have a larger emphasis on oral language, visual aids, songs, activities and games to learn Japanese. Middle Primary classes also have a strong visual and oral emphasis but writing hiragana and kanji are introduced. Basic sentence structures are modelled and students
(Languages—Japanese Continued)

begin to read simple text. By Upper Primary School students are expected to be able to use modelled sentence structures to read and write in Japanese as well as convey information in oral language.

Students are exposed to the traditions and culture of Japan through folktales, songs, art and craft (especially origami), toys, food and daily, seasonal and annual events. Students are encouraged to compare and contrast their own language and culture with that of Japan. Opportunities to practise the language with native speakers are provided with annual visits from Japanese High School students either hosted, or studying, at Blackwood High School. The Japanese room is well equipped with realia from Japan including clothing, toys and artefacts. On alternate years the whole school is involved with a Japanese Sports Day or Culture Day.

PE and Sport

Participation in PE Classes:
In PE lessons, students explore their capabilities as they present themselves on the day. Through developing awareness of their changing capabilities students learn to work within and extend these capabilities.

Students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning through guiding them to be responsible for what they undertake in PE. PE lessons are inclusive of everyone no matter their physical skills. This is implemented through very open ended tasks that provide a range of challenges for different ability levels, games requiring a range of roles and skills which students are guided to take, and having everyone active at the same time ensuring no one feels they have to perform in front of others. Students are also guided to be aware of other player limitations and play inclusive of those players. Student activities are adapted and differentiated to ensure all abilities and needs are catered for.

To be able to provide a safe PE environment that accommodates student's needs and delivers the best PE experience possible parents need to keep the school informed of:
Health plans ensuring they are up to date.
New or temporary medical conditions explaining limitations and how long the limitations will be.

Appropriate Dress for PE:
For the safety of your child and others in their class please ensure your child has the appropriate uniform, hat, shoes and drink bottle at all PE lessons. On PE specialist days students are encouraged to wear the school culottes, shorts or pants as this allows for greater movement. Good fitting sports shoes, or sandals for footwear and a school hat are essential. Students also need to bring a drink bottle as they may require a drink during lesson time.
Music

PERFORMING ARTS
The Performing Arts is a specialist subject at our school with Jodie Bartlett. Jodie offers a wide range of skills and experiences across the spectrum of Performing Arts, including Music, Dance and Drama.

Classroom Performing Arts Program
Students are provided with many varied opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in Music and Drama. In their expressive arts lessons, students are offered learning experiences that involve movement, drama, speech, singing and instrumental work.
They are given the opportunity to:
create, make and perform
critique peer and professional performances
experience a wide range of genres
learn about the history of performing arts.
Students are given opportunities to develop their musical and dramatic skills whilst also improving their teamwork, performance and audience skills.
In addition to the Classroom Performing Arts program, students may be able to participate in any of the following programs:

Instrumental Music
The school offers private instrumental tuition in piano, guitar and violin or viola. Currently, over 40 students learn a musical instrument at school. Students get the opportunity to perform at assemblies and later in the year at our Instrumental Showcase Evening

The Senior Choir
The Senior Choir performs at the "Festival of Music", at whole school events and within the wider community. It is composed of interested and committed year 5-7 students. Our aim is to produce a choir of the highest standard possible where EVERY student who works hard and enthusiastically is able to participate. Blackwood Primary School is allocated student places in the Festival of Music Concert Series each year. Students learn a wide variety of songs, vocal warm-ups and singing skills. There are opportunities for students to solo, along with singing in unison and in parts.

The Middle Primary Choir
The Middle Primary Choir is composed of enthusiastic year 3 and 4 students. They perform at assemblies, whole school events and within the wider community. Students learn a wide variety of songs, vocal warm-ups and singing skills. There are opportunities for students to solo, along with singing in unison and in parts. Many of their songs are accompanied with choreography or are dramatised.

Big Sing
Every week, the Junior Primary classes attend ‘Big Sing’ for an afternoon of singing, movement, dance and games. Students experience the joy of being part of a large ensemble and begin to learn about audience manners, performance skills and basic choral techniques. They have the opportunity to showcase their learning to each other and they perform at our school assemblies during the year.
**Intervention Programmes**
There are several programmes in place to ensure student success, especially in the area of literacy. We have a programme in Junior Primary, which provides assistance to students experiencing difficulty in literacy in the early years. This early intervention reduces the risk of students experiencing learning difficulties in future years and is conducted in pairs or small groups of children by an SSO (school support officer). In the Primary years students are provided with some assistance in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

**Showcase Assemblies**
These are held every three weeks on Fridays at 2.30pm and are student-run. Classes take it in turn to host the assembly. Parents/Caregivers are welcome to attend, and are especially invited if their child’s class is hosting the Assembly.

**Student Voice and Student Leadership**

**Purpose of Student Voice and Student Leadership**
Builds relationships between students and their school community. Allows students to give input into improving their class and school. Improves students’ skills in listening to others, respecting others’ opinions/views/thoughts, communicating own points of view and problem-solving. Builds students’ awareness of how decisions are made and how they impact other people. Develops students’ leadership skills.

At Blackwood Primary School we have two school captains and each class has two SAT members (representative) per semester and Student Action Team (SAT) meetings take place once a week. We have two Year 6/7 House Leaders and one Year 5 Vice House Leader per house team.

Student Interest Groups are formed on a needs basis and examples may include an Environment Group, Safety Ambassadors etc.

**Assessment/Reporting**
The Principal and staff are always happy to meet parents/caregivers and to hold interviews by appointment arranged through the school office. Early in Term 1 an acquaintance evening is held where teachers outline programs and expectations. This is followed by a three-way conference between parents/caregivers, teacher and child later in the term to review the start to the year and set goals. Student led conferences are held in Term 3. At the end of Terms 2 and Term 4 the children receive a detailed written report.
Pastoral Support Workers

The school has a Pastoral Support Worker, for a total of 15 hours per week. Their role is to support students, staff and parents to be part of a community which exemplifies the school values of Care, Harmony and Excellence.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council is a decision making body of the school community which works to provide direction, policy and support to assist the Principal to make the school a better place for learning.

The primary role of the Governing Council is the enhancement of student’s learning through the cooperative efforts of parents, students, staff and others in the community.

Meetings are held on the Tuesdays of school week’s 4 and 8 each term commencing at 6.00pm and concluding approximately 8.00pm.

Sub committees support the Governing Council and provide a broader decision-making base by involving more parents in the process.

If you have an interest in any of these areas please speak to the principal who can provide you with information about meeting dates and times and the roles of the various subcommittees e.g. Finance, Grounds, Sport, Corporate Image, Fundraising.

PARENTS and FRIENDS COMMITTEE

The Parents and Friends are dedicated to building a sense of community within our school as well as fundraising to provide resources for the development of the school’s facilities and teaching resources. We are also another connection between the leadership of the school and parents; raising and addressing general issues.

The P&F committee is a volunteer group made up of parents and teachers committed to the school and their children’s education. We welcome and encourage any new members to join us. Meetings are held regularly and we would love to see new faces there, everyone is welcome.

VOLUNTARY HELP

Parental involvement is actively encouraged at Blackwood. We value the help given by parents in many areas - the Resource Centre, the class reading programme, on excursions and camps, in the Canteen, with sport, just to name a few.

Please contact the school to organise a DCSI screening to volunteer at Blackwood Primary School.

We trust that you will enjoy helping as much as we will appreciate your help. Your child (and many others as well) certainly benefit considerably. If you would like to help just let your child’s class teacher know.