



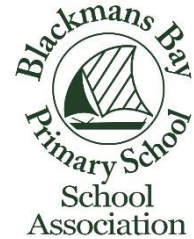
## Blackmans Bay Primary School Association

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Hi everyone and welcome to a new school year!

As we all get ready to send our children back to school in the next few days, I just wanted to send you all a quick letter on behalf of the School Association and say welcome back ☺

2019 was a huge year for us as a school community, with a number of significant fundraisers, including the Quiz night, and our school fair. As you are all aware, the school fair is a huge undertaking, and is only possible due to the time and commitment of our school community. Last year we managed to raise a total of \$40,000 for our school! This was an incredible effort!! Thank you to all who were involved in helping to raise this.

This money not only goes towards our longer-term projects (e.g. upgrading our school playgrounds), but also goes towards the many extra activities we are able to offer our children to enhance their school experience. Every year the School Association supports the funding of online learning programs such as Reading Eggs, the acquisition of reading logbooks to support the reading development of every student, and subsidises the band program, the early years swimming program, and the grade 6 camp in order to be able to offer these at a rate that is affordable for our families. Without the additional fundraising from our school community, as a school we would not be able to offer these opportunities for our children. Please continue to support the fundraising efforts in any way you can, whether volunteering your time, or simply coming along and participating in the various events!

As with any new year, there are a number of positions available on the School Association Committee (SAC) for any interested parents to join. This is your chance to come along and have some input towards your child's experience at our school. Whenever I talk to parents about possibly coming along and being involved, the most common comments I hear is that they don't have enough time, or enough experience, or don't have anything to offer ... Please let me tell you all that every single one of you would be valued as a member of the SAC. We value and appreciate every single point of view, and having people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences only enhances our ability to represent our whole school community! With regards to being short of time, I completely understand this position, as a parent our time is often already stretched thin between all of our many commitments. The amount of time needed to be a part of the SAC isn't actually too onerous, we only have 8 meetings a year (two a term), and there isn't a lot of additional work in-between those meetings – unless you are also part of the fundraising committee! Whilst we all try to be at every meeting, it is OK if you miss one or two during the year. Please do continue to think about whether or not you would like to be part of the SAC and to be nominated for one of our vacant spots – you are more than welcome to come along and join a meeting first if you would like to “try it out” before fully committing to a whole year!!

As we start a new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to share some feedback based on the recent survey (at the end of last school year) regarding our school fair. I know how frustrating it is to complete surveys and never get any feedback, so wanted to share some of this with you! Overall, the

feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive regarding the 2019 fair, but there are always some things we can improve on.

A number of comments were received regarding the lack of outside stalls or activities, unfortunately we did have some outside activities planned (e.g. a jumping castle, outside stalls) but these had to be cancelled (or moved inside) due to the weather. We certainly would hope to be able to offer this in future as long as the weather is kind to us! We also received a number of comments regarding the amount of correspondence sent home to parents, and the use of electronic versus manual sign-up of volunteers. Based on previous fair feedback we moved to electronic sign-ups for volunteers as a number of parents had thought that this would be easier, and would reach a greater number of parents. We also endeavoured to reduce the amount of correspondence sent home and managed to reduce this significantly compared to the previous fair in 2017. Due to reducing the number of notices sent home, the length of these notices did increase, which admittedly did feel overwhelming at times. We will continue to endeavour to find solutions to this. As you can imagine this is no easy feat – how to make sure that information gets out, is comprehensible but not overwhelming. Unfortunately, we are never going to please everyone, but will continue to attempt to act in a way that is in line with our school values (e.g. reducing the impact on the environment by minimising the amount of unnecessary paperwork by sending electronic notices).

In addition to the comments regarding ways to improve the fair, we also had a number of comments about things people loved about the fair, including the various stalls that were on offer, and the time commitment and organisation of our fair coordinator Sam Dobson – we certainly agree with the comments thanking Sam and her team of amazing volunteers for their incredible effort in running the school fair, which managed to raise a significant amount of money for our school, thank you again to all involved! Whilst I cannot address all of the comments raised in the survey, I want to assure you that all of the comments have been greatly received and we will be continuing to look at ways in which the fair experience can be improved for 2021.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our children (and teachers) a great start to the 2020 school year, and hope to see some of you at our first SAC meeting of the year which will be held on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February at 6.30pm in the school library.

Please also remember that there is a welcome BBQ scheduled for Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of February at 5pm. We are hoping to also officially open our new Therapy room at this time. Do come along, have a free sausage, and celebrate the start of another school year!

Karen Sutherland  
SAC Chairperson