



# Bald Blair Public School School Directory



# *Welcome*

I would like to welcome all new and returning families to our school. I trust that you look forward to a year where all our students are provided with a quality education in a warm, caring and stimulating environment.

The aim of this booklet is to familiarise parents and children with our school and its organisation. It is hoped that by reading this material it will answer some or all of your questions and avoid any possible misunderstandings in the future. If you have any queries, about our school, or about your child's academic progress, please do not hesitate to contact me or other staff members for clarification.

I trust that your stay with us will indeed be educationally rewarding and enjoyable.

Yours in education  
Julie Gittoes

***Principal***



## **Messages**

### **Principal's Message**

Educating children for a future of change presents us with an exciting challenge. Our students will need to be creative thinkers, critical analysts, decision makers, risk takers, effective communicators, negotiators and independent learners.

At Bald Blair Public School we aim to foster the development of each student by providing a safe, happy school in which everyone is encouraged to pursue personal excellence.

We are an educationally progressive and innovative school. Our emphasis is on quality teaching practices and improved learning outcomes for our students. As teachers, we aim to develop and extend the diversity of talents, skills and experiences which our students bring to the classroom. We do this by providing challenging, purposeful and comprehensive educational programs in the six key learning areas. Above all, we try to instil in our students a love of learning.

Home, school and community have complementary roles to play in setting and maintaining an acceptable standard of student's behaviour. Our Student Welfare Policy is aimed at promoting self-discipline in our students, which is essential for each person to be a responsible member of our society. Our students always receive compliments from all venues we visit as part of our learning programs, reflecting the development of self discipline, an interest in learning and a pride in representing their school.

Our school is connected to the "Connected Classroom" which means an interactive whiteboard with video conferencing capabilities in the main classroom. The school has an interactive whiteboard in all classrooms and library.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our school's very committed, supportive and dedicated parents who are involved in all aspects of their children's progress from providing transport for excursions, to monitoring the homework and home reading programs, assisting in sporting activities, writing grant submissions and raising money to improve our school's facilities and educational resources.

One of the great strengths of Bald Blair Public School is a strong sense of community where everyone is included. All events at our fabulous school are organised in a professional and imaginative manner which has given the school an excellent reputation in the wider community. The holistic approach to education that Bald Blair provides gives all students an opportunity to show individual strengths and build on new skills.

Thank you for choosing to send your children to our school.

# **BALD BLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOL**

## **“Strive for Success”**

### **Our School at a Glance**

Bald Blair Public School, situated in an idyllic setting, is the focal point of a small rural community located in the Northern Tablelands area of NSW. The school is situated eleven kilometres from Guyra on the Guyra Road. Our student population is drawn from farms as well as rural, residential and rented properties in the Bald Blair and Guyra area. The community is made up of graziers and others who travel to the city of Armidale or town of Guyra to work in a variety of trades and occupations.



The school was established in 1920 and its culture is one of high expectations and educational excellence. It is a dynamic and very innovative school with excellent programs in literacy, numeracy, music, dance, science, HSIE (human society and it's environment), sport, Japanese and technology.

The school's central aim is for all students to attain the highest possible educational standard of which they are capable. It is the belief of the school community that this will be achieved by providing explicit teaching and learning in an environment not unlike that of the family, where trust, care, mutual support and co-operation enhance quality learning outcomes. The school continues to encourage its students to participate in and be challenged by a balanced, sequential curriculum appropriate to their stage of development.

Many families with long establishment in Guyra and district have family members who commenced their education at Bald Blair and whose descendants are now enjoying the experience and secure rural community.

### **Testimonial**

Sophie Mitchell & Madison Morgan 2013

During our time at Bald Blair we have experienced so many different opportunities. Bald Blair Public School has given us a great start in life to fulfil our dreams in the future. We have made so many great friends and have had the support from our amazing teachers that we will miss dearly.

# **Our Mission Statement**

The aim of Bald Blair Public School is to provide all students with a quality education in a caring and stimulating environment.

## **Expectations**

- Provide children with basic skills and knowledge.
- Ensure that children know how to discover new knowledge.
- Ensure that children know how to assemble facts, pose questions and arrive at tentative answers.
- Develop in each child a sense of personal worth.
- Prepare children to cope with and contribute to life in society.
- Prepare children to work co-operatively with each other.
- Foster learning through children and teachers working together on significant and relevant problems.

## **School Rules**

- Children should behave in a responsible, polite and courteous manner that shows respect for the rights, property and safety of others.
- Children will play in the playground so that they remain in sight of the teacher on duty.
- Children will enter office, staffroom and classroom in the correct manner.
- Children should play on fixed equipment only when a teacher is present.
- No tackling games are allowed.
- Stay within the school grounds at all times unless supervised.
- Keep our school clean and tidy.

## **Our Curriculum**

### **CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL ARTS**

Students at Bald Blair are encouraged to understand and appreciate the world of music and the arts.

Involvement in the school and out in the wider community introduces students to creative and practical arts which occupy an important part of the school curriculum.

Students have the opportunity to perform their musical and dramatic presentations in a variety of forums.

### **FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY**

The classroom and library is equipped with up to date computer hardware and software and the opportunity for students to access the technology is most favourable.

All students can access a laptop or classroom desktop computer in each learning area.

## **A Variety of Special Programs**

### **LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

Students have the opportunity to acquire important leadership skills throughout their primary school career.

The school leaders program has students in positions of responsibility and in Year 6 all students are our school's leaders. We do not have School Captains because the school's philosophy is that all year 6 students should have the opportunity to be a leader.

### **GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

Bald Blair School recognises the importance of supporting and encouraging students who enjoy challenge. The school conducts a variety of programs which enrich a child's experience in learning.

### **EXCURSIONS**

Excursions form a valuable and exciting part of the school curriculum at Bald Blair. Excursions provide a platform for classroom based projects before and after the event. Parents are invited and encouraged to accompany students and teachers on school excursions. Our major excursion is held every even year ie: 2016 etc.



## **SWIMMING SCHOOL**

Our school holds an Intensive Swimming Program each year using accredited instructors at the Guyra Swimming Pool in Guyra. Students travel by bus.

## **JAPANESE**

All students K – 6 participate in learning Japanese for 30 minutes each week. This program is enhanced by the school hosting Japanese teachers' aids on a regular basis.

## **SPORT**

The school places great emphasis on sport and healthy lifestyle. Every day at 3.00pm the students do daily P.E. with the emphasis being to increase the student's skills, fitness and sportsmanship. These skills that the students learn are then incorporated into their Friday afternoon sports activities. Each year the school participates in swimming and athletic events with other small schools. ALL students are expected to participate in all sporting events. Our school also participates in the PSSA swimming and athletic events.



## **LIBRARY**

Children are allowed to borrow two books. It is necessary for all students to have a library bag in order to protect the borrowed books.

## **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

Each family receives a school newsletter which is prepared and forwarded every two weeks on the Thursday. It will contain information regarding school activities and up and coming events.

## **SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES**

These are held once a term starting at 2:30pm in the Creative Arts Centre. Parents are encouraged to attend to see their children perform and receive well earned recognition for their achievements.

## **P&C MEETINGS**

The Bald Blair P&C is a cornerstone of the Bald Blair School life. The parent group is an active and effective fundraising organisation. The P&C provides a supporting role for the management and conduct of school activities. Yearly membership for the P & C is \$5.00.

## **VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions are \$50.00 per year, per child paid in first term.

### **SCHOOL CONCERT**

This is an annual event held in Term 4. This night doubles as our school's awards and speech evening while also showcasing the children's talents in singing, dancing and drama. The P&C have a community dinner at the conclusion of the concert.

### **SCHOOL REPORTS**

Reports are written at the end of each semester. Parent/teacher interviews are held at the end of each semester, where the reports are issued. Reports attempt to give you an indication of the quality and level of work your child has been doing, the attitudes and skills developed and ways you may be able to enhance these through activities at home.

In years three and five, children undertake tests in numeracy and literacy, on a state wide Basic Skills Program. Results are mailed to parents and pre result discussion plus follow up interviews are available.

### **SCRIPTURE**

The school is fortunate to have Mr Roger Zuill give a non-denominational scripture class each Thursday.

### **TRANSITION**

Bald Blair Public School is very proud of the transition program we offer to students who are enrolling in kindergarten the following year. To attend transition, students need to turn five before the 31<sup>st</sup> July in their kindergarten year.

Transition commences early in February and proceeds until the second last Tuesday in term 4. ***If transitions classroom teacher is away, transition is not held.*** Transition students are to wear their school uniform including a wide brim hat.





## Significant Programs and Initiatives

### Balance in all the Key Learning Areas.

The Bald Blair teaching staff is experienced in providing explicit teaching and learning programs, a balanced beginning and a strong foundation for young students in all key learning areas.

For Bald Blair students this means a rounded and broadly based approach to educating children. This balance incorporates the aspirations of the school community which emphasis the importance of reading, writing and mathematics which are resourced with the latest educational material.

The program at Bald Blair will edify and enrich the family values and experiences which form the roots of The Bald Blair School Community.

Bald Blair Public School is constantly looking for new ways to improve the teaching and learning opportunities it offers to its students. Students are involved in a number of initiatives including:

Outstanding literacy and numeracy programs

STLA class (student teaching learning assistance)

Reading Recovery for Small Schools

Creative Arts program – music, dance and band.

Healthy canteen- free milk every day

Highland Cluster of school's initiative

Finlayson's Sport's Day

Public Speaking

Premier's Sporting Challenge

Gifted and Talented Programs

Japanese

Technology

Library

Leadership for all students

Excursions

Intensive swimming program

Healthy lifestyle

Scripture

Friday afternoon sport and daily physical education

Active Afternoon School's Program Monday & Wednesday 3.45pm-4.45pm. Free of Charge.

Homework Centre 3.30pm – 5.30pm Tuesday & Thursday (\$7.50 per hour)





[www.baldblair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.baldblair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## The Staff

Mrs Julie Gittoes

Principal  
Teacher  
Transition



Mrs Debra McIntyre

Teacher

Mrs Sally Purvis

Permanent/part time Teacher

Miss Aimee Waters

Temporary Teacher

Mrs Donna Davidson

Senior Administration Manager

Mr Ted Deeks

General Assistant

Mr Lando Warner

Cleaner

## Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)

*President*

*Mr Sam White*

*Vice Presidents*

*Mr Bill Mitchell*

*Mrs Belinda Lyon*

*Secretary*

*Mrs Katherine Hickey*

*Mrs Sophie Wright*

*Treasurer*

*Sally Finlayson*

# School Uniform

## Girls Summer

Blue, red & white checked pinafore  
Mallee Bull 225 Mann Street Armidale Ph: 67722701

White shirt  
White socks  
Red jumper  
Black shoes

## Winter

Pinafore  
White shirt/skivvy  
Navy tights  
Blue, red & white checked trousers  
Red jumper  
Red/blue striped tie  
Black shoes

## Sports

Navy shorts  
White and red school sports shirt (ordered through McMahons Dry Cleaners- Ph: 67722629 6 Moore St Armidale – Opp Police Station)  
White socks  
Appropriate footwear  
Bald Blair Tracksuit (ordered through McMahons Dry Cleaners)

## Boys Summer

Grey school shorts or trousers  
Blue shirt  
Red jumper  
Navy Socks  
Black Shoes  
Red/blue striped tie

## Winter

Grey trousers  
Light blue shirt/skivvy  
Red jumper  
Navy socks  
Appropriate footwear

## Hats

Wide brim navy blue hat – to be worn winter & summer



# Student's Equipment Requirements

The school attempts to provide most classroom learning resources through the annual grants and from equipment and money donations. However the school also must prioritise expenditure so that equity and quality learning material is given preference. This means that each child has the responsibility for providing some of the recording and resource media. Most of the items are either normal consumables or are long lasting and should serve the child for at least two years.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Children are expected to have their own equipment at school each day.

## Primary children **MUST HAVE:**

- pens
- pencils
- textas
- sharpener
- geometry set
- dictionary
- thesauruses
- rubber
- glue stick
- calculator (Yr 5 &6)



## School Times

8.45am	Fitness Circuit
9.05am	Morning milk and piece of fruit
9.20am -11.20 am	Morning session lessons
11.20am - 11.45am	Recess
11.45am -1.15pm	Middle session lessons
1.15pm - 1.50pm	Lunch
1.50pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon session lessons
3.30 pm	Bus time

## Bus & Private Transport to School

The school charter bus system provides free bus transport to school for children who live more than 1.6km from the school. The bus arrives at school at approximately 8.25am and departs at 3.40pm.

Food and drink are not permitted on the bus, by law. Children traveling on the bus are expected to be well behaved and orderly. Failure to comply can mean that individuals may be excluded from the bus. All children who use the bus must have had parents complete the Private Bus Application Form and have submitted this to the school.

Parents who transport children more than 1.6km to the bus stop or where bus transport is not available may apply for a rebate for their transport to the bus stop or school, by motor vehicle, from the Ministry of Transport. Rebate forms can be obtained from the school but it is the parent's sole responsibility to post the completed form to the Ministry of Transport. This subsidy is paid at the conclusion of each semester and parents will need to ensure that they check their payments at the end of each semester.

Officially, children should not arrive at school until 9am and should depart as soon as possible after 3.30pm. If on occasion, this is not possible, please telephone the school so that supervision can be arranged, we will not leave unsupervised children on school premises.

The teaching staff arrive at the school before 8.30am. ***Children who arrive at school early MUST sit on the bench seat outside the main building until a staff member arrives.*** Please notify the school if your child is to be collected by someone different or has changed travel arrangements at any time.

When collecting your children from school, can you please park in the designated parking area as the bus turns around on the gravel.

## Collection of Money

Parents are requested to send the exact amount of money, cash or cheque, in a sealed envelope marked with the child's name and purpose for which it is provided.

## Using the School Facilities

The school grounds and plant may be used by members of the school community, once agreement has been made with the Principal. This includes the hire of capital equipment, the use of photocopiers and computers as well as the use of the classrooms and barbeque. At present the school does not make a hire charge to parents.

## Smoking within School Premises

Smoking is prohibited within the grounds of all NSW Public Schools. We would appreciate if you would refrain from smoking while visiting the school or using school facilities.



## **Medication for Students**

For their comfort and in the best interests of themselves and their classmates, children with genuine illness should remain away from the school until they are well enough to actively participate in learning activities. Their return must be accompanied by an explanatory or verbal advice from the parent or guardian. This is a legal responsibility and is rigidly monitored by the Home School Liaison Officer.

Any medication which is to be administered to a child should be delivered to the class teacher along with a letter of explanation from either parents or doctor. These medications are to be kept in a secure area and returned home at the end of each day. Asthma puffers may be kept by the child if necessary. Whilst all staff are vitally aware of the importance of accurately dispensing children's medications, and do their best to ensure this is done, unavoidable, circumstances may arise which result in incorrect timing. If accurate time of medication is required by your child, you must make appropriate arrangements to ensure this is done.

Parents of children with regular and long term medication requirements should contact the Principal personally, prior to enrolment.

## **School First Aid Facilities**

First Aid is limited to initial treatment of symptoms. Children will not be given any medication except for antiseptic powder or solution and necessary dressing. All serious injuries will be reported to parents as soon as possible, usually by telephone. Please ensure that you have given your written permission for ambulance and doctors to be called in the unlikely event of a serious accident.

## **Labelling of Clothing and Personal Belongings**

Please ensure your child's clothing and personal belongings are all marked clearly marked with name.

## **Enrolment Forms**

These are available from the school or can be downloaded from our schools website. Along with the filled out enrolment form, the school requires a copy of your child's birth certificate, immunisation history (which is available from Medicare) and proof of address.







# Bald Blair Public School

## Parent Responsibilities

If your child is going to another school please notify the school immediately.

- Ensure that their child/ children attend school on a regular basis.
- It is a legal requirement that all parents provide the school with a phone call or a short note stating why a child is absent from school.
- Ensure that their child/ children always wear their full school uniform, bring a wide brimmed hat and a water bottle.
- Ensure that their child/ children have enough food for each day at school.
- Support school literacy and numeracy programs by supervising homework, listening to a child read to a child and so on.
- Return all notes within the required time.
- Return all money to school in a sealed envelope with names clearly stated on the front.
- If a parent can't afford to pay for an excursion contact the school immediately so that the issue can be discussed.

There is small amount of money in the school's global budget to assist students in need.

- Follow school rules and Code of Conduct.
- Work co-operatively with all staff, students, parents and community members.
- Ensure that their child arrives at school on time each day.
- Preschoolers
- Respect and co-operate with all parents.





# Bald Blair Public School

## Parent Participation Policy

### Code of Conduct

#### **Rationale:**

The Staff and School Community of Bald Blair feel that parental assistance is an integral part of any school environment and is most beneficial to all parties concerned. We feel it is most important that parents feel welcome and needed in the school.

#### **Guidelines:**

At the beginning of each year a timetable will be sent home informing the parents of areas and times where their assistance would be most beneficial to both children and teachers. Interested parents will be asked to indicate times they would like to assist and these will be negotiated with the class teacher.

- The structure of parental assistance in a class is largely dependant on that teacher.

#### **Code of Conduct:**

All parents who are working/assisting at Bald Blair Public School must follow our Code of Conduct:

- If possible parent assistance to be planned or organised prior to the day they assist.
- Timetables are sent home at the start of the year.
- If the Principal is away from school another teacher will be given the responsibility.
- This designated teacher has the same roles and responsibilities as the appointed Principal. Parents must be aware they have a responsibility to obey the school's CONFIDENTIALITY code. (What happens at school is not to be discussed outside of school.)

- If the Principal is unavailable in regards to student behaviour and welfare, there should be more than one staff member present at such meeting. This meeting would have to take place before or after school.
- Pre-schoolers are welcome but MUST be fully supervised by a parent or guardian at all times
- Within reason, parents who are assisting are to take any disciplinary matters to the staff – not take it upon themselves to discipline children. (Using common sense, ie, if there is an incident in the playground which requires urgent attention please notify the teacher on duty immediately.
- Parents should respect the privacy of the office and the work being carried out there, and not expect unlimited access to it.
- When a parent answers the phone, please follow the school code and identify the school and themselves
- Adhere to decisions that have been made by the acting principal's
- All adults are to respect the school's behavioural conduct, that is, no raising voice, no swearing, no physical restraint of a student, no verbal abuse or bullying, no alcohol or smoking on school grounds

#### **Parent/Teacher Discussions:**

If a parent/guardian needs to discuss their child's progress or behaviour please ring the school and make an appointment that is convenient for the parent and teacher.

We value parental input but sometimes issues are sensitive and should be discussed privately before or after school.