Highlights

TERM 1
- Acquaintance Night & AGM with Professor John Halsey
- Active After School - Table Tennis & Swimming
- KESAB School's Clean Up Day
- Young Leaders' Day
- Harmony Day
- Jolly Phonics training at Snowtown
- Upper Primary Enterprise activities
- Excursion to Adelaide - Migration Museum & Zoo
- Community Assembly
- Clare Easter Races fundraising

TERM 2
- Crazy Hair Day
- Active After School - Golf and Hokey
- Student teachers on practicum visit
- Port Adelaide Power Players visit
- Tuck Days
- Parent vs Student netball match
- Mothers Day stall
- SAPSASA - students representing the Mid North in athletics, football and cross country running
- SAPSASA Athletics at Santos Stadium
- State Cross Country at Oakbank
- Camp in Whyalla
- Community Assembly

TERM 3
- Active After School - Frisbee Fun and Soccer
- Book Week parade
- JP Local District Excursion
- Landcare Day
- Visit by Japanese and Spanish students
- Literacy Open Night
- Footy Colours Day
- Sports Day
- Tuck Days
- Operation Christmas Child: Shoeboxes of Love
- Year 7 Careers Camp
- Community Assembly

TERM 4
- Active After School - Lawn Bowls and Multiskills
- Science Day
- Year 7 Canberra Camp
- SPED Longitudinal Study
- Swimming Lessons
- Community Network lunch for staff
- Cricket Clinic
- School Concert: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

School Camp
We visited Pt Germein, Iron Knob, Pt Lowly, Whyalla and the Royal Flying Doctor service in Port Augusta while on camp in June.

We learnt a lot about our state's history and geography, the importance of water, as well as natural resources and Aboriginal perspectives.

Andrew Reljich, Greg Toholke and Scott Welke were parents who came with us and assisted with supervision—as well as the chores!
Focus on Learning: Whole school effectiveness in teaching and learning, with a focus on the Australian History and Geography Curricula

Targets 2013
- Student mean scores in National Literacy Tests at national mean scores or better in all year levels for Grammar and Punctuation and Writing
- All teachers confident to teach history in 2013 and Geography in 2014.
- Teachers knowledgeable and confident in teaching the Australian Curriculum.

Outcomes
- 4 of the 13 students who sat the NAPLAN tests were scored above the national mean score in Grammar and Punctuation
- 5 of the 13 students who sat the NAPLAN tests were above the national mean in Writing
- All students were at or above the national benchmark in all areas assessed in the 2013 NAPLAN tests
- Teachers taught the Australian History curriculum and reported student progress to parents using Australian Curriculum standards
- Teachers participated in professional training with respect to the Australian Geography curriculum at workshops and during Pupil Free Days and confidently trialed aspects in relation to the learning on school camp and planned for 2014
- For the first time, some students in the school achieved perfect scores in PATR Reading assessments for their year level.

Recommendations for the Future
- Maintain the Jolly Grammar program
- Teachers plan for the teaching of general capabilities across all curriculum areas
- Teachers refine their practice in planning for learning with a focus on differentiation to meet the needs of students
- Teachers maintain involvement in the SPELD longitudinal study on the effectiveness of Jolly Phonics
- Teachers assist in the development and implementation of the Primary Australian Curriculum Strategy partnership plan
- Implement School Validation Recommendations

Attending to Culture: working intentionally to maintain a positive learning and workplace culture that supports learners, staff and the community to experience success and work with enthusiasm, commitment and energy

Targets 2013
- Fewer “Neutral” responses in Parent Opinion Surveys
- SRC more active in the life of the school and community
- More parents/community members supporting school programs and student learning
- Teachers maintain high levels of Professional Knowledge, Practice and Engagement as Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers

Outcomes
- There were fewer neutral responses in Parent Opinion Surveys but fewer parents participated in the 2013 online survey
- Kids Council and student action groups developed lunchtime activities
- More community members assisted in class by listening to children read
- Parents and students attended a Literacy Open Night
- Each teacher supervised a university student during their practicum and the principal was awarded a mentoring scholarship to support aspiring leaders

Recommendations for the Future
- Maintain and further develop ‘student voice’
- Invite parents to participate in surveys (online or pencil & paper) while on site
- Maintain current professional discussions with staff and support SSOs in developing performance plans
- Maintain and develop community involvement in student learning
Numbers here at Blyth have kept increasing and this year we have been able to increase numbers to 15 places instead of 12. At times we are full to our new capacity of 15.

This year fees have increased to $14 per session, following a school audit earlier in the year, that found our OSHC service was operating at a loss. Fees will increase a further $1 per session in the new year.

During the Term 2 holidays this year, our OSHC space had the cracks in the wall filled and was painted a nice new natural colour which has made our space look lighter and brighter.

Dzintra and I regularly met early each Monday in Term 1 to update our Quality Improvement Plan.

OSHC has been able to purchase new trays for children in which to keep artwork and personal effects while attending the service, and a new TV and video will be installed during the Christmas break.

OSHC hats were purchased and families have the option to purchase a hat for $10, or children can borrow a hat and they remain at OSHC in pockets with children’s names attached.

The end of year party was held during an OSHC session this year, with everyone being so busy and previous years’ parties being poorly attended.

I would like to thank Marie Cutting for her financial and accounting advice and Dzintra. I would be lost without your continued advice and support.

Thank you Ashley Dunsford and Tamara Pyrke for attending OSHC Committee meetings during the year and Pamela Doroch for relieving my position in Term 2 while I was away.

Thank you to the families who have supported, and keep supporting, our school’s OSHC service.

Looking forward to another great year here at Blyth.

Deb Tobin, Director
The average student attendance for the year is 94.14%.

This is a small decrease compared to 2012 when the average attendance rate was 94.55%.

In 2013 individual student absences totaled 555.5 days.
175.5 days were lost to illness.
373.5 days were for family reasons.
6.5 days were lost to student suspension.

In 2014 we will be welcoming back Kate Harvey from maternity leave and we thank Jacqui Kenny for her contribution towards the students and school.

Numbers are looking good for 2014 with Mrs Sylvester starting with 16 Reception students – that's a huge effort, so good luck with than one!

I would like to wish the students heading to high school every success for the future and hope they can reflect back on their time at Blyth Primary with great memories.

OSHC continues to be a great asset to the school and provides a fantastic service to all families who access it – all agree Deb does a wonderful job.

Due to a lack of support it’s been disappointing to see the Parent Club go into recession this year, hopefully with a few new families it will get up and running again. If anyone is interested, please see Dzintra.

2013 has been no exception to other years being that it was very busy for all students, teachers and parents. Congratulations to all who have made it a success.

With a new Federal Government and State Government uncertainty, school funding continues to be an issue. We hope all the “Gonski” money budgeted in last year’s election promise comes to fruition.

I would like to thank the parents, staff and students who have given up their time to volunteer at the Easter Races, Clare Show and Tuck Days which are all very important fundraisers for our small school.

All Fundraising money goes towards providing many opportunities for the students at subsidised rates. So please continue your support and as a school we will all benefit.

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At the end of 2013 Mignon Ottens retired and on behalf of the Governing Council, students and staff we thank her for efforts. The school has surely missed her supportive role.

A big thank you to Sarina King as Secretary, Julia Agnew as Finance Officer, Dzintra for her guidance and to all Governing Council members.

In closing, 2013 has been another successful year with the support of a lot of people who work hard to make this a great school. Keep up your involvement and we’ll see you all in the new school year.

Phillip Bigg
Chairperson, Governing Council