In Focus: Helping Children Learn

Parents often ask “How can I help my child...”
Supporting your child develop confidence with writing

How can I encourage my child to write?
• Read your child’s writing or have him or her read the writing to you and comment on the positive aspects, for example, “I really like the way you’ve described this.”
• Praise your child for having a go at writing words that are new and explain how to spell words which are causing difficulty.
• Talk to your child about why an author or film maker might create a book, play or film in a particular way. What points of view are presented?

What is the author’s purpose?
• Read and talk about the writing that your child brings home from school.
• Praise your child for using neat and legible handwriting.
• In order to develop spelling and vocabulary, play word games such as I Spy, Scrabble, Boggle, Scattergories and crosswords.

How can I help with writing at home?
• Have your child label things that he or she designs or makes.
• Compile a photo album or scrapbook with your child and have him or her write captions for the photos and pictures, or encourage your child to keep a diary of special events, e.g. a holiday diary.
• Make the writing of notes, letters and stories a normal part of family life.
• Involve your child in helping to complete forms, such as insurance or Medicare claims, and in writing job applications or résumés.

From the Principal

Last week I was an interested participant in a national conference about assessment. Although the conference was hosted by the Australian Council for Educational Research, most of the presenters were teams of practitioners (teachers, principals, curriculum leaders, regional support staff) from all states of Australia as well as from state and private schools.

There were many different and interesting approaches being used across Australia—but also some common strategies...
• Formative assessment (feedback)
• Monitoring student performance using developmental ‘indicators’
• Improving assessment tasks using cross-curricula connections and multi-modal formats.

Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside this issue</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Spotlight</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Well-Being</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yallarm Yarning</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuck-shop</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Shop</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWPBS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports/Activities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming Date Claimers

• 4th June—Prep—Year 2 Athletics Carnival
• 5th June—Year 3-6 Athletics Carnival
• 25th June—U8’s Day
• 26th June—26-Storey Treehouse Excursion—Year 2-4
Whole School Review 15-17 June

This was originally planned for Week 5, Term 1—but Cyclone Marcia appeared off the coast, and the review was re-scheduled.

What makes us a community is our togetherness! An example of our togetherness is that every week, ‘West parents process the student banking—for the students and for the school’.

For those of us who are unable to work with our wonderful ‘banking parents’—we offer our support and our gratitude.

Community Culture

What makes a Community?

Not all groups of people are immediately a ‘community’—they may share a geographic location, enjoy common hobbies or even be members of a club or group.

We are ‘West—it is part of our identity, but that is not enough to make us a community’.

What does make us a community is our together-ness! An example of our togetherness is that every week, ‘West parents process the student banking—for the students and for the school’.

For those of us who are unable to work with our wonderful “banking parents”—we offer our support and our gratitude.
Tuckshop orders for Sports Day this Friday are due NOW.

**REMINDER**
The tuckshop will be closed on Monday 15th June, due to our Family Fun Night the previous Friday.

As the weather gets cooler, our students will be needing to wear warmer clothes, parents please note that if you are sending your child in a jumper, it must be royal blue and NO hoodies are allowed.

School Jumpers are available from the Uniform Shop for $38.00 and Track pants are available for $22.00.

SWPBS: Greeting others warmly

**Week 7 Focus:**
Respectful: Saying 'Good Morning' or 'Goodbye' to others, each day?

For this week’s goal, we are looking at being respectful to one another by saying either “Good morning or goodbye”. These terms are lovely ways to greet or end our day with others at GWSS.

Looks Like
* people speaking nicely to one another
* People having eye contact with each other

Sounds Like
“Good morning or goodbye” being heard

Feels Likes
Being wanted by others because they’ve taken the time to greet you or say goodbye
Someone cares about you and acknowledging you being at school

Attendance

If our attendance target is 95% (or better), then we are trying to keep or absence data down to 5% (or less!)

So far, our whole school absence data = 6.3%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep.</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sports/Music

TENNIS
There will be NO tennis for the next 2 Fridays due to our Athletics Carnival and our Family Fun Night.

Year 5 Camp

Date Claimers:
Friday 12th June—P & C Family Fun Night from 5.30—8.00
Tuesday 16th June—P & C Meeting. Everyone is welcome, starts from 6.30pm in the staffroom.

Update
The Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Year 5 Camp at Barambah Environmental Education Centre was extended until 29 May.

We eventually received 64 returned EOIs—confirming support for 60 students to attend the camp. Unfortunately this is less than 80% support and the camp cannot go ahead for this year.
Year 3 & 4 History Excursion

On Monday, 1st June, our year 3 and 4 classes went on an excursion to observe change and continuity in Gladstone City. They visited Boles Street Lookout, Barney Point Beach, East Shores, Auckland Hill Lookout and Goondoon Street. The children looked at historical buildings such as the Old Post Office and the old Town Hall as well as new buildings such as Gladstone Regional Library, GECC and Gladstone Regional Council. The morning group particularly enjoyed seeing dolphins playing in the Marina entrance while the afternoon group saw the mud crabs.
**House Ribbons**

**HOUSE RIBBONS FOR SALE**

These are available for purchase from the school office, to wear on athletics carnival day.

$1.00 / Ribbon

**Student Absences**

Parents may report an absence in the following ways.

- Student Absence Line - 49797366
- Note to Class Teacher
- Absentee form through our NEW Skoolbag App.

Please note that ALL absences need to be explained.

**Excursions**

Following is a list of excursions/activities that our school is participating in over this term and term 3. Please take note of when money and forms are due in by.

- **15th/16th & 17th July**—GYMC Workshop—Early Bird Special $85.00 due by 5th June or $95.00 due by the 19th June.
- **26th June**—26-Storey Treehouse Performance—Years 2-4, payment due by 11th June.
- **14th July**—Author—Andy Griffith at GECC - Payment due by 11th June.
- **16th & 17th July**—Regional Shield Netball & Rugby League—Payment due by 24th June.

**SEP News**

**Nationally Collection of Data on Students with Disability**

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability. All Australian schools participate in this annual data collection to gather data around:

- Number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability
- Level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- Broad category of disability

The data provided to the Australian Government is aggregated data only. Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual students. If you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please email the.principal@gladstonewestss.eq.edu.au.

The data collection period for 2015 is between the 18th of May and the 7th of August. Further information will be going out to parents this week and you can also access further information on the Department’s website: [http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/disability-data-collection.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/disability-data-collection.html) This also outlines the definition of disability as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).
Family Fun Night

Ride tickets are available for purchase from the school office. Payment by cash, cheque or eftpos.

Yummy Food for Every Taste!

For those of us who might enjoy a veggie OR chicken burger (not cooked on the BBQ), pre-orders are being taken now. Forms have been sent home with all students. Steak burgers, sausage sandwiches and hot chips will be available across the counter in the night.

Please return raffle tickets AND unsold raffle books by Tuesday 9th June.

WEEKLY WINNERS – Raffle

Prep – Isabella Bills—Prep C
Year 1—Sarah Harrison —1A
Year 2 – Jack Hunter – 2C
Year 3— Nate Barker—3/4CE
Year 4 – Katerina Dumpleton—4D
Year 5 – Isobella Kermode – 5B
Year 6—Katie Barrett— 6C

Congratulations to the above winners for returning their raffle ticket books. If any families are unable to sell their raffle tickets please return them to the office ASAP as we have families wanting to sell more. Thanks to all the families for the prompt return of the tickets so far. Raffle Tickets are due back on Tuesday 9th June.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT SHOW BAGS

Our year 6’s and 4C are running the Show Bag Stall. We are in need of donations to fill our show bags. We are after items like caps, water bottles, individually wrapped lollies or chocolates, balloons, stickers, tattoos, pencils, erasers, small bags of chips, Funny Face ice-blocks (liquid kind that can be frozen later), PopTop drinks, or anything you think would be suitable for a sample bag.

If you are connected with an industry or business that could donate any of the above items, please contact the school and the teachers will come and collect the items.

Thank you so much for your support.
Community Notices

Sunday 16th August 2015 is the date to remember!!!

The 6th annual Botanic to Bridge fun run/walk will be held on this day........

STEPPING STONES TRIPLE P PARENTING SEMINAR

CHANGING PROBLEM BEHAVIOUR INTO POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children with disabilities are more at risk than others of developing problem behaviours. These behaviours can interfere with their growth and development and can be disruptive for the family as a whole. This seminar provides ideas on understanding why a particular behaviour is occurring and practical suggestions for how to promote alternative behaviour.

Where: Leo Zussino Building
Central Queensland University
Bryan Jordan Drive
Gladstone QLD 4680

When: Thursday 30th July
Time: 9.30am-11.30am
Cost: FREE

Who: Any parent/caregiver of a child with a disability age 2-12 years


For more information contact: Stepping Stones Triple P Project Team St Lucia, Qld, 4067 Ph 33656499 or Linda Velli: 49777043