When older kids struggle to read and write, the issue can become fraught for the whole family.

Parents can lose their patience and blame their child or themselves and then...their child loses their confidence and begins shying away from reading at all.

Grades might fall and interest in school can flag.

Kids who struggle to read often try to hide it from teachers and parents, and develop unhelpful strategies, which only exacerbate the problems.

Ways to encourage effective reading in older children

- Ask your child what subjects they would like to read about.
- When reading with your child, limit reading time to 10 minutes of quality time and make it fun.
- If reading together is traumatic in your house, do it in a café, or under a tree.
- Before reading aloud, orient your child to the text by talking about it beforehand. Look at unfamiliar words, for example.
- Encourage your child to predict what a word could be based on the meaning.
- Try ‘echo reading’. Depending on the text, read a sentence, paragraph or page aloud first, and then get your child to read it.
- Try ‘shared reading’. Take turns reading sentences or paragraphs. You read the first sentence and your child the next. Read aloud and encourage your child to mimic you by following along behind you. Trace your finger under the words in a fluent way to show where you are reading. Avoid reading word by word.

From the Principal

Apart from an embarrassing crunch that involved a small bus I was driving—I had the very great pleasure of accompanying a very talented group of West students to the National Cheer-leading Championships held in Brisbane, at the end of last term.

Our 15 girls and the 8 or so parents who came and ‘cheered’ on their kids were AMAZING.

There was not one cross word—every child was made to feel welcome and important, and each and everyone of them kept their eye/s on each other.

Our girls, under the expert tutelage of Mrs Opstelten, managed to secure 3 first places and 1 second place. As they were only registered in 4 events—you can see how well they did!

I was a bit blown away by the commitment of many Brisbane schools—registering squads of more than 20 athletes.

The champion school was Sorrell District High School (K-10) from Tasmania—I felt as if it was “all about me”... well, at least connected because I taught at SDHS between 1985—1987!
Parents/Caregivers please help your child to locate any overdue library books from last term. Please return these to the library by the end of this week.

Overdue notices will be sent home at the end of this week.

Health & Well-Being

Social media, kids and privacy

Regardless of your child's age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you suspect. According to recent research:

- 92% of children under the age of two have a digital presence (it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
- a quarter of Australian children aged between eight and 12 use Facebook, despite the minimum age for a user being 13
- more than 20 per cent of tweens publish photos of themselves on the photo-sharing website Instagram
- young people between the ages of 14 and 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.

Even if you don't know a lot about social media yourself, you can help your child stay safe online simply by asking them about the social media accounts they are using, and regularly reminding them the importance of keeping their personal information private.

Community Spirit: Cheerleader Teams

Our West girls waiting the Announcement of results.

...and the West cheerleading mascot!

Cheerleading Championships—Brisbane Entertainment Centre

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.

Brekky Club

Please note that Brekky Club is on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Mornings at the SEP Unit, commencing from 7.45am.

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE Online

Social media, kids and privacy

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Community Spirit: Cheerleader Teams

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...and the West cheerleading mascot!

Cheerleading Championships—Brisbane Entertainment Centre
At GWSS, it is polite and respectful to always pay attention to people when they are speaking. This shows the person that you are interested in what they are saying and displaying great manners. 

**LOOKS like…**
- Having eye contact
- No speaking from the person listening

**SOUNDS like…**
- One person speaking at a time
- One person responding at a time
- Positive and encouraging words being spoken

**FEELS like…**
- Respectful
- Valued
- Important
- Happy

---

### Volunteers Needed

At GWSS we are lucky to have our tuckshop operate 5 days/week, but this requires parent help. If you can spare some time in the tuckshop we would love to hear from you.

As the days are warming up, could you please remind your children to bring their school hats. **NO HAT NO PLAY.** School Hats are available from the uniform shop for $15.00.

---

### Attendance

At GWSS, it is polite and respectful to always pay attention to people when they are speaking. This shows the person that you are interested in what they are saying and displaying great manners.

**LOOKS like…**
- Having eye contact
- No speaking from the person listening

---

### Uniform Shop

As the days are warming up, could you please remind your children to bring their school hats. **NO HAT NO PLAY.** School Hats are available from the uniform shop for $15.00.

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### Bicycle Safety

Parents that have children riding their bikes or scooters to school, please make sure your children are wearing helmets.

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### Year 1 Swimming Program

- **Thursday 08/10/2015**
- **Friday 09/10/2015**
- **Tuesday 13/10/2015**
- **Thursday 15/10/2015**
- **Friday 16/10/2015**
- **Tuesday 20/10/2015**
- **Thursday 22/10/2015**
- **Tuesday 27/10/2015**

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### Year 2 Swimming Program

- **Tuesday 24/11/2015**
- **Thursday 26/11/2015**
- **Friday 27/11/2015**
- **Tuesday 1/12/2015**
- **Thursday 3/12/2015**
- **Friday 4/12/2015**
- **Tuesday 8/12/2015**
- **Thursday 10/12/2015**

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### Attendance Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Data</th>
<th>Term 4 Attendance…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Goal:</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 data (so far!)</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Swimming—Years 1 & 2

- **Year 1 Swimming commences this Thursday 8th October, and our Year 2 Swimming commences on Tuesday 24th November.**

**Swimming lessons are a very important part of Gladstone West’s Physical Education Program. As such children are expected to participate—medical reason excepted.**

Parents please make sure the permission form and medical form have been returned to the school prior to your child participating.

All payments for swimming in Term 4, 2015 must be finalised by **Wednesday 7th October.**

Dates for swimming are as follows:

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### Dates for Swimming

#### Year 1 Swimming
- **Thursday 08/10/2015**
- **Friday 09/10/2015**
- **Tuesday 13/10/2015**
- **Thursday 15/10/2015**
- **Friday 16/10/2015**
- **Tuesday 20/10/2015**
- **Thursday 22/10/2015**
- **Tuesday 27/10/2015**

#### Year 2 Swimming
- **Tuesday 24/11/2015**
- **Thursday 26/11/2015**
- **Friday 27/11/2015**
- **Tuesday 1/12/2015**
- **Thursday 3/12/2015**
- **Friday 4/12/2015**
- **Tuesday 8/12/2015**
- **Thursday 10/12/2015**

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2015 TERM CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th October</td>
<td>Year 1 Swimming Commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th October</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th—30th October</td>
<td>Prep 2016—Parent Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th &amp; 21st October</td>
<td>Prep Open Days—9.30am —10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th October</td>
<td>Advanced Life Photo Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th October</td>
<td>World Teachers Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th—13th November</td>
<td>Book Fair Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th November</td>
<td>Year 2 Swimming Commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th November</td>
<td>Full School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th Nov &amp; 1st December</td>
<td>Year 6 into 7 Orientation Days—TSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st &amp; 2nd December</td>
<td>Year 6 into 7 Orientation Days—GSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Presentation 9.30am —10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th December</td>
<td>Report Cards Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th October</td>
<td>Year 1 Swimming Commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th October</td>
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</table>

2015 TUCKSHOP ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tuckshop Roster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Tammy Honour, Brenda Lyons, Helen Whitten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th October</td>
<td>9.00am—10.30am, 9.00am—11.00am, 11.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th October</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Maree Offord, Lynda Fieldus, Sandra Khalu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th October</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am, 9.00am—11.00am, 9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen, Maree Offord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th October</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm, 9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sandra Khalu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th October</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Brenda Lyons, Helen Whitten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th October</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am, 11.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students Departing
If your child will be departing Gladstone West and not attending in 2016, please advise the office staff. This will assist us when looking at class arrangements for 2016.

2016 Enrolments
Enrolments for 2016 are now being taken. If you are wanting to enrol as a New student to Gladstone West State School in 2016 in classes from Prep to Year 6, please complete an enrolment form as soon as possible. Enrolment packs are available from the school’s office or downloadable from the school’s website.
**Special Considerations for 2016**

Parents/Caregivers who wish to apply for special consideration for their child in 2016 are asked to forward these in a letter addressed to the Principal no later than Friday 30th October. All requests by parents/caregivers will be considered.

All requests are to be made annually in writing, or emailed to the.principal@gladstonewestss.eq.edu.au. Requests from previous years are only considered for that time.

While every effort will be made to meet requests, there is no guarantee.

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**Christmas Raffle**

The GWSS P&C Association are running a Christmas Raffle for Term 4. The P&C are assisting the school with Buddy Benches, supplies including instruments for the Music room and upgrading our current PA System.

We are calling on your support for this raffle by way of donated items. Our Christmas Raffle prizes this year will be various Christmas Hampers. We are aiming to have hampers to suit everyone in the family ie. Family Food Hampers, Alcohol Hampers, Kids, Mums, Dads and Back to School Hampers.

We are seeking unperishable groceries (please ensure use by date is after December 2015) Alcohol, Toys, Wish Cards and Food Vouchers are all welcome.

Please take your goods to the administration office no later than Friday 23rd, October, 2015.

We thank you for your support with this fundraiser. Any questions please contact me on the below details.

Janenne Suter  
Fundraising Officer  
GWSS P&C Association  
0411400018  
jodyjanenne@bigpond.com

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**School Banking**

School Banking has commenced again for Term 4. Every Tuesday is School Banking Day. Students need to make sure they have given their bank book to their class teacher prior to the commencement of the day.

**HELPERS NEEDED**

The banking ladies are looking for volunteers who are able to give some of their time on a Tuesday morning. If you can spare an hour or so from 9am on Tuesdays your help will be greatly appreciated. Just let the office know.

Thanks  
The School Banking Team