From the Principal

On Monday the Director General of the Department of Education, Training and Employment, Dr Jim Watterson visited the school along with our Assistant Regional Director, Mrs Kay Kirkman.

We discussed the school’s newly implemented 4 year Strategic Plan and demonstrated our ‘web-based’ Literacy and Numeracy Indicators tracking tool. He was very impressed and encouraged us to keep forging ahead with our innovative and West-specific monitoring and assessment strategies.

We also shared with Dr Watterson our Sporty Schools program, the successful outcomes for our students as well as the state and national recognition of ‘best practice’ as identified by a QUT research team.

From Dr Watterson’s email…

Thank you again for the warm welcome at Gladstone West State School on Monday morning. After the formalities of Community Cabinet over the weekend, it was such a pleasure to visit your school and see your beautiful grounds and the wonderful facilities that you are using to deliver such high quality education in the area.

2016 Improvement Focus — Writing

Assessment & Reporting. Core improvement focus Writing

What does ‘good writing’ look like? How do we know how to calibrate the qualities of different written texts? A recipe, a news article, a sonnet or an advertising slogan could all be examples of great writing…or not.

These 10 elements are used across Australian schools…

1. Audience: how the writer engages the reader
2. Text Structure: the elements of writing that indicate a particular genre or style of writing
3. Ideas: how the writer shares their ideas and explains or develops these in the text
4. Literary devices: symbolism, rhymes, rhetorical questions…
5. Vocabulary: nice is nice but delightful, tasty, pleasant or bland are ‘better’
6. Cohesion: how the writer keeps the text connected
7. Paragraphing: the writer constructs logical paragraphs that fit with the sequence of the text
8. Sentence structure: correctly structured and varied
9. Punctuation: commas, full stops, question marks, apostrophes, ellipses – oh my!
10. Spelling: correct spelling and context – righters make write their writing

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Upcoming Date Claimers

- Year 2 Swimming
- Year 6 Camp
- Full School Assembly
- GWSS Cross Country
**What is School Wide Positive Behaviour for Schools (SWPBS)?**

SWPBS is a research-validated organisational framework which supports explicitly teaching and reinforcing expected student behaviours and actively acknowledging students for demonstrating positive behaviours in the school environment. It regards every part of the school as a teaching and learning environment and every staff member as part of the SWPBS approach.

**Why have SWPBS?**

SWPBS was developed by teachers and is grounded in a research-validated, learning theory of behaviour. SWPBS empowers teachers to support positive student behaviour through explicitly teaching expected school behaviours. Importantly, the SWPBS framework assists schools to identify, adopt and more effectively apply evidence-based practices which build and support positive environments for students' academic and social success.

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**Late Arrival**—Students arriving at school after 9.00am must sign in at the office, before continuing to their classroom. It is preferred that parents/caregivers sign students in and include the reason for the late arrival.

**Early Departure**—From time to time, parents/caregivers may need to collect their students from school prior to the formal end of the school day. Students must be collected from the Admin office area. Students must be signed out by a parent/caregiver, or by a responsible adult nominated by the parent/caregiver. Students cannot sign themselves out of the school.

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**Stop Drop and Go**

Just a reminder to our parents/caregivers that are collecting their students from the three designated Stop Drop and Go areas. Please be aware that this area is only for collection and drop off of children before and after school. It is not an area to park. The three zones are for 2 minutes **ONLY**.

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**SWPBS Focus:**

**This week’s SWPBS is—**

**RESPONSIBLE** by:

“Is being prepared and organised for learning”

---

**Items Needed**

**Pots, Pans and Baking Equipment**

For this year’s musical drumming extravaganza we are looking at utilising kitchen items - pots, pans, baking dishes, wooden spoons, salad servers etc.

If you have any spare kitchen items at home please drop them off at the office or Mrs O’s Health room.

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**Cheerleading**

Notes went home last week to children that were interested in participating in Cheerleading. If your child is interested they can collect a form from the Admin Office.

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**Year 3 Swimming**

Year 3 swimming has commenced please see below the remainder of the lessons.

- **Thursday 11th February**
- **Tuesday 16th February**
- **Thursday 18th February**
- **Tuesday 23rd February**
- **Thursday 25th February**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29th February</td>
<td>GRIP Leadership—Student Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st March</td>
<td>Year 2 Swimming Commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st &amp; 2nd March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th—12th March</td>
<td>Combined Schools Musical—Addams Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th—18th March</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp—Yeppoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>GWSS Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Easter Bonnet Parade—Prep—Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Full School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>Public Holiday—Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th April</td>
<td>First Day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GLADSTONE WEST STATE SCHOOL**

Boles Street  
Gladstone  
Queensland, 4680

Phone: 49797333  
Fax: 49726396  
Dental Clinic: 49729364  
Email: principal@gladstonewestss.eq.edu.au

**STUDENT ABSENCE LINE**  
4979 7366

**West is Best**

**We're on the web**  
www.gladstonewestss.eq.edu.au

www.facebook.com/GladstoneWestStateSchool
Volunteers

Any parents wanting to volunteer in their child/ren’s classroom or Tuckshop must come down to the office and fill in a new Volunteers form for the 2016 Year.

Medication

Parents/caregivers are reminded that all medication given to students at school must be prescribed by a doctor, a medication form completed and medication stored at reception where it will be administered to students. Parents are asked to ensure a CURRENT green medical authorisation form is completed.

EPIPENS

Please make sure you have replaced any Epipens that may be out of date. These are stored at the office (unless alternative arrangements have been made). A new green form must also be completed for 2016, at the office. Please update any action plans and contact details at the office if needed.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has once again commenced in 2016 in the SEP on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7.45. Parents please inform the SEP if your child has any food allergies.

Sport

Port Curtis Sport—2016

Term 1

* Girls & Boys School Soccer team - each Monday commencing 8 Feb for term one
* Basketball Trials (girls and Boys) - 15 February
* Rugby League Development Cup - 17 February
* AFL Trials - 3 March
* Netball Twilight Carnival - 3 March
* Rugby League (Boys) PJ Marsh 10 yrs - 4 March
* Rugby League Gala Day (Girls) - 4 March
* Rugby League 11/12 yrs Trials - 10 March
* Netball Trials - 7 March (Note that this date has changed)
* Hockey Trials - 10 March
* Soccer Trials (Boys & Girls) - 17 March
* GWSS Cross Country - 21 March
* Tennis 14 April
* Touch Football 21 April
Sport

West girls versed Kin Kora yesterday. Unfortunately West had to forfeit the game due to lack of players. The girls were still able to have a kick around with the coach of Kin Kora distributing their abundance of players evenly. Tayla and Maddie showed some great skills in goal keeping and kept two balls out of the net. Overall score was 3 - 0 to Kin Kora but still a great job for the girls’ first game!

Next game is also at the Boyne Island Soccer grounds at 4.50pm Monday. Training will be Monday first break.

Kind regards,

I thought it was amazing because we have a great team who work together and we also have the best coach ever. Goal scorers Bailey Barret 4, Marcus Ford 2, Lachlan Lyle 1, Aiden Ford 1.

– Bailey Barret

I thought that we had a great team and we all worked together on the field. Calliope scored the first goal but then we came back with five goals in the first half and 4 goals in the second half. Calliope also scored one more goal so the scores were 9-2 and we won the game. The boys were so happy, everyone did a victory dance.

– Marcus Ford

School Banking

Welcome back after the holidays hope everyone had a fantastic break. The banking team desperately need helpers, so if you can spare some time on a Tuesday morning from 9am your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Just see the ladies at the office.

We have had some inquiries regarding the carryover of tokens. Your tokens do carry over into the new year, they do not revert back to zero. Once you have made 10 deposits just slip 10 tokens into your deposit wallet along with a note indicating which reward item you want. We will order your prize and it usually takes between 7 to 10 days to arrive. Information about the reward items available for this year and joining school banking was sent home last week.

The school banking team

Year 6 Camp

Year 6 Camp is fast approaching and we would love to see this go ahead. Please make sure that your child’s permission and medical form has been returned and payments are being made at the Administration Office. Please note that if you need a payment plan set up that you need to make contact with Kylie Richards our Business Service Manager. Payment Plans need to be finalised before the commencement of camp. Parents please be aware that we require 85% of the cohort camp finalised for this to go ahead.

Year 6 Camp is on from Monday 14 March to Friday 18 March. The students will be travelling to Yeppoon and staying at Capricorn Coast Leadership Development Centre. If you have not yet received any information in regards to this camp all information can be collected from the Administration Office.
Information for the upcoming UNSW ICAS competitions have gone home today with all students from Year 2—6. Each year the University of NSW conducts assessment tasks (competitions) for children across the South Pacific in a variety of subjects. The objective of these competitions is to help parents gauge the progress of their child against children in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. These competitions are not compulsory but are open to families willing to pay the cost to have their child participate in the task.

There are a variety of competitions to enter, each of which cost $8.00, apart from spelling ($11.00) and writing ($17.00) as they are marked individually. Parents can enter their children in as many of these as they choose. To make the most of this opportunity parents must pay in advance for these competitions. The due date for payments is **Friday 18 March**. Unfortunately late entries cannot be accepted, as these payments need to be forwarded interstate.

Last year many of our children received “academic excellence awards” and we encourage parents to talk to their children to consider taking on this challenge. Children do not need to sit for each competition, but should consider tackling the subjects they demonstrate confidence in. eg: if they’re good spellers, try the spelling competition!

Parents please note that our Year 2 students are only eligible to sit the Spelling Competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Sitting Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>17 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>31 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>13 &amp; 17 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>15 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>2 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>16 August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the convenience of our school community, school photos can be ordered and paid for online using a secure online platform. Orders placed online DO NOT require an envelope, cash/cheques or paperwork returned to school. **Envelope Orders:** photos can also be purchased in the traditional manner using an envelope, with cash/cheque enclosed.

The preference of our school is that orders and payments be made online, as this reduces the administration and associated security issues related to the return of cash & envelopes prior to and on photo day. To place your order visit [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) and enter the code- **[DGC 4HZ XWE]**. This code can also be found printed on your envelope.

Please be aware that-

Sibling/Family Photos can be ordered online or via envelope. To ensure a smoothly run photo day, online orders for Sibling/Family Photos will be cut off at 12.00 a.m. the night before our photo day to allow a list of students that require Sibling/Family Photographs taken to be compiled. Sibling photos can still be ordered after the online cut off date by collecting an envelope from the office and returning the envelope on photo day with your payment enclosed.

All online orders should be placed on or before our day of photography. The online code above may also be used to order sports and other group photos.

**All orders placed online will be delivered to the school for collection**

If payment is by cash, please make sure correct money is put in the envelope. The school office cannot give change as we do not receipt these payments.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENT LEADERS OF 2016

Pictured below following their badge ceremony parade last Friday are:
Braiden, Kade, Felicity, Mia, Isobella, Reuben, Matthew, Taj
Paige, Maddison, Bella, Marcus, Chloe, Casey (Absent) —Cody

STUDENT CAPTAINS
Matthew Willard
&
Casey Llewellyn

STUDENT VICE CAPTAINS
Chloe List
&
Marcus Ford
Community Notices

Community Notices

Kindysport will be running an Allstars multi-sport program this term on Tuesdays after school on the oval. The program introduces Prep to Year 3 children to a different sport each week. A 6 week program ($75) will commence on the 9th February from 3.15 to 4pm.

Wallaby Junior Rugby League

Football

All new and existing players can register via the link below.

Members of our committee will be at the Wallaby Fields this Thursday from 4.30pm for anyone needing assistance.

Any Enquires please contact
President Darren: 0418740783
https://reg.sportingpulse.com/regoform.cgi?aID=5094&pKey=0f624771b1542db5a45341038b70621f&cID=10530&formID=53641

The Gladstone Mudcrabs JAFC AFL

Auskick Centre will be held on Thursday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00 in Term 1, for 7 weeks. Auskick will start on the 3rd of March and it will be held at the same time and place for the 7 weeks.

Come along and join the fun with your school friends learning a whole range of new skills, playing plenty of fun games, and getting kitted out with the latest Auskick sporting merchandise. This includes your very own Auskick lunchbox, footy, hat, Footy pump, footy cards, and even a height chart. For more information please contact Ben O’Neill on 0488 262 436.

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