Research has demonstrated that when teachers use student progress monitoring, students learn more, teacher decision making improves, and students become more aware of their own performance.

A significant body of research conducted over the past 30 years has shown this method to be a reliable and valid predictor of subsequent performance on a variety of outcome measures, and thus useful for a wide range of instructional decisions studies.

These researchers concluded that when teachers use systematic progress monitoring to track their students’ progress in reading, mathematics, or spelling, they are better able to identify students in need of additional or different forms of instruction, they design stronger instructional programs, and their students achieve better.

At Gladstone West State School, we use a variety of tools and strategies to keep track of our students’ progress.

We start by working with our students to work out what they can do, what they already understand about a subject or topic and how well they apply skills to new situations and learning.

When we know what they can do and what they know we identify ‘next step’ goals in writing, reading and numeracy. We also match the sort of activities and experiences that will best help them learn and the types of support they will need from us to make sure these experiences are challenging, positive and successful.

As the students and teachers work together to progress through a sequence of learning, the teachers are monitoring their progress using Literacy and Numeracy Indicators, originally developed by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au)

The Literacy and Numeracy Indicators are matched to the Australian Curriculum—the progress that every student demonstrates can be ‘mapped’.

Sometimes, students are working at different levels—but they are successfully working at their level… but our teachers are able to track their development individually.

The process is very simple… a start point, a direction and a way to measure when milestones are achieved.

From the Principal

Over the last few years, Gladstone West State School has undertaken a number of review processes to help identify what we do well, what we need to build upon and the directions that would most support our students and community.

This term we will again be undertaking such a review—we are quite excited by the opportunity to ‘show off’ as well as the chance to identify future directions and opportunities for improvement.

In week 5, three reviewers will spend 3 days in our school looking at our operations and speaking with staff, parents, students and other community members. The school leadership team will be involved throughout the process. At the completion of the review, the review team will present its findings, which we will proudly share with our school community.

Upcoming Date Claimers

- 11 February—4.30pm Prep—Year 2 Parent Information Evening
- 4th & 5th March—School Photos
Class Spotlight

3/4 E – Exceeding Expectation

1995-2015...20 years of teaching! If only I had kept a journal all those funny and special moments. Could I be an Author of a Best Seller!

I am Leanne Pearce. Many times over the years I have been asked “What do you do different?” Honestly, I don’t believe I do anything different. Here are three things which, from my experience, have stood the test of time.

1. Supportive Environment
Loved children come to school to learn. Some children come to school to be loved.

If the environment is safe and supportive, where risk taking is encourage, where getting it incorrect is a learning experience, children will have-a-go. You can’t ask any more than a try. I CAN.

2. High expectations
I have high expectations of each and every student. I expect them to give 100% effort each and every day.

I expect my students to be the best that they can be. I hold them accountable for their effort. I encourage personal journeys and personal growth.

Learning is about improving yourself. Everyone is unique. Fast or slow, pace doesn’t matter as long as you are moving. Differentiation, differentiation, differentiation. Praise, Praise, Praise.

3. Scaffolded Instruction.
Know your learners. Know where they are. Know where they are headed and know the next learning step (ZPD- zone of proximal development. “The ZPD is the distance between what children can do by themselves and the next learning that they can be helped to achieve with competent assistance.” Eileen Raymond).

Sequence learning for success (I do, We do, You do). Guide the students from the familiar to the unfamiliar.

Scaffolded instruction provides a supportive learning environment. In a scaffolded learning environment, students are free to ask questions, provide feedback and support their peers in learning new material.

Health & Well-Being

Australia’s Healthy Weight Week
Get inspired to achieve a healthier weight and lifestyle.

As part of Australia’s Healthy Weight Week (16-22 February 2015), Australia’s dietitians want to inspire all Aussies to cook at home more often to achieve a healthy weight. Run by the Dietitians Association of Australia, this important week is all about getting the right advice and support for those looking to be a healthy weight – and who isn’t?

Eat at least two serves of fruit and five serves of vegetables every day
◆ Eat one more piece of fruit and one more serve of vegetables than you eat now
◆ Add fruit and/or vegetables to every meal and snack
◆ Add fruit to your cereal or toast for breakfast
◆ Add salad to your lunch
◆ Add an extra serve of salad or vegetables to your dinner
◆ Choose fresh, dried or tinned fruit or raw vegetables as a snack

Eat breakfast every day
◆ Wholegrain cereal with fresh or tinned fruit and low fat milk
◆ Wholegrain or fruit toast with mashed banana or stewed apple
◆ A fruit smoothie made with fruit, reduced fat milk and reduced fat yoghurt
◆ Grilled mushrooms and tomatoes on wholegrain toast
◆ For those on the run A glass of milk or a tub of yoghurt and a piece of fresh fruit
◆ A fruit smoothie
◆ A high fibre cereal bar with less sugar and fat with a glass of milk

Yallarm Yarning

Yallarm—a word we got from the old people that means ‘place of shells’.

From Aunty Jacquie Johnson...

An old uncle, who had been living at Dargini came to visit my family—as he left he said “I’m going home to Yallarm, where the shells are.” This was the place where there was plenty of shellfish. Oysters, pippies, crabs and other shell fish were plentiful during different times of the year.

The old people were careful about how much sea-food they took because they knew it was important to let the numbers build back up.

The aboriginal peoples’ bloodlines can come through either side of their families And connects them to certain areas of land.

Jewfish—one of the totems of the Gooreng Gooreng people
Our school photos will be taken on the 4th & 5th March 2015.

Sibling envelopes have now arrived at the school office for collection, or can be done via the online process.

**SWPBS**

**Week 3 Focus: I am Responsible**

Having all school equipment in class

Some hints & ideas from Mrs Hope Watson...

Organizing skills need to be learned. You will have to practice to teach yourself until they become habit. You will then do them without really thinking about them!

First of all you need to “Think SMART” and gradually build slowly on one success at a time.

“Think SMART”… “I can learn if I think SMART” Smart students use learning strategies

**Attendance**

The 2015 school year is 2 weeks old—our attendance data is currently 96.4%.

So what’s that ‘look’ like over a week?

⇒ 30 January: 95.5%
⇒ 2 February: 95.7%
⇒ 3 February: 96%
⇒ 4 February: 97.4% Yay
⇒ 5 February: 98.6% WooHoo!

**Materials are ready (pencils, rulers, books)**

**Assignment or subject book is near-by**

**Remember...ask questions if you don’t understand**

**Think positively – I CAN DO IT!**

**Sports/Activities**

We’re trying some ‘new’ sports this year!

- 10 & 12 February – Year 3 Swimming
- 10 March – Starts… Year 2 Swimming
- 31 March: GWSS Cross Country

**Library**

Borrowing…

- Before school
- First break

To care for books—remember your library Bag.

**Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week from 8.00 am to 9.00 am. Accepted payment methods are cash, cheque and eftpos.

For those who are unable to purchase at these times, a uniform order form (PDF, 29 KB) can be filled out and handed in at the school office. Alternatively, register and log on to the P&C online ordering facility at School shop online.

All items available at the uniform shop are in compliance with the current dress code.

Parents are reminded that we have a NO hat NO play policy at GWSS. Please make sure your children have their hats. These can be purchased from our Uniform shop for $12.00. They are a reversible bucket hat that has their house colour on the inside.

**P&C**

Funds raised go to support projects across the school—in 2014…

- Shade Shed, Boles Street
- New signage—all access points around the school
- 30 iPad minis to support students on Individual Curriculum Plans

For 2015 we are looking to provide an additional PE shed—including double access doors, retaining wall; Smart Boards initiative—start replacing our old Interactive boards with these flexible use and access boards for multi-users; extend the iPad program… We are ‘great’ but with your help we would be AMAZING...come along!

17 February: Next P&C Meeting
17 March: AGM
Port Curtis Swimming Team
Congratulations to Clara Furness, Rohan Neill and Kane Martin for being selected in the Port Curtis Swimming Team to compete in Rockhampton next Monday. Good Luck.

Port Curtis Primary School Boys Soccer Competition

On Monday, West played our first soccer game of 2015. Our opponent was St Johns. It was a very solid performance. The end result was 9-0 in St Johns favour. A big shout out to Jake Lyle, who displayed amazing sportsmanship throughout the game. – Mr Grayson.

Next Weeks game is at 4.00pm against Central State School
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 2015 Year.

Please note that all parents need to sign in at the office prior to going to their child/ren’s classroom to help. When signing in a name lanyon is required to be worn.

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 2015 at the office. Please update any action plans and contact details at the office if needed.

Congratulations to our student Leaders for 2015. Last Friday they were presented with the Leader Badges at a special parade.

Clara Furness, Emily Willard, Chiedza Mabukwa, Nevaya Adkins, Bethany Morrissy, Margil Rajaji, Jordan Forsyth and Alexandria Mercer.

Next Monday our Leaders get to participate in a GRIP Leadership program specifically designed to develop the skills of our young leaders. Student Leaders from many different schools come together and participate in a series of workshops planned to enhance skills of engaging others, implementing school based projects and negotiating outcomes.

Our Brekky club will be commencing again tomorrow, Wednesday 11th February at the SEP from 8am – 8.45am. All kids are welcome to come (toast and cereal provided). If you do not want your child to participate in Breakfast Club please advise us with a written letter. We will be using the medical information that has been provided by you in the past so if there are any changes / allergies please advise the school ASAP.

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TRAFFIC CONGESTION – STAGGER COLLECTION TIMES

To help avoid traffic congestion at 3pm, parents/caregivers are asked to stagger collection times to 3:05pm, 3:10pm. This should allow more traffic flow and help reduce lines of cars banking up.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Collection zones are strictly 2 mins only.

Staff are on duty at all collection zones until at least 3:15pm. Uncollected students are always brought to Admin where they wait until parents arrive or have been contacted.

If there is no space in the collection zone keep driving around the block and try again. It is important for children to be on time.
Community Notices

Wallaby Junior Rugby League
Football Sign-On

Positions available in all age groups

Any queries please contact
President Darren: 0418740783

Or come down to the Clubhouse on
Thursdays from 4.30pm