In Focus: Student attendance

Last week’s attendance data was not good (see page 3). While there are clearly reasons for this, I would take this opportunity to remind the school community of the following evidence based research into student attendance.

Did you know?
Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Why is regular attendance at school important?
Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.
• they learn better
• they make friends
• they are happier
• they have a brighter future.

Are you having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?
• won’t get out of bed in the morning
• won’t go to bed at night
• can’t find their uniform, books, school bag …
• slow to eat breakfast
• haven’t done their homework
• watching TV
• have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
• it’s their birthday.

If so, a set routine can help
• have a set time to go to bed
• have a set time to get out of bed
• have uniform and school bag ready the night before
• have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
• set a time for daily homework activities
• speak about school positively
• be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

What should I do if my child won’t go to school?
You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

From the Principal

Another very busy week at West for students and teachers alike! As I type this, the students are out enjoying (?) the schools physical surrounds and environment as they participate in the School Fun Run. The school is extremely grateful for the ongoing generous support of the P&C who have coordinated this event in partnership with our amazing Phys. Ed. Department team.

While the students will receive prizes and recognition based on the money they have raised, what is far more valuable is the life-long values of an active and healthy lifestyle shared in a social context with friends. There is a reason why events like Tough Mudda, and our own Botanic to Bridge are so popular—they are fun to share with those we are close to!

Our kids are learning this intrinsic motivation today, and that’s another reason that WEST IS BEST!

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Upcoming Date Claimers
• 21st August—Book Week Parade—9am
• 11th September—Full School Assembly
• 7th–15th September—Year 3 Camps
• October / November—Year 4 Camps
• 5th October—Public Holiday
• 19th October—Pupil Free Day
Spotlight

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Education Adjustment Program

The department's Education Adjustment Program (EAP) is a process for identifying and responding to the educational needs of students with disability who require significant education adjustments related to the specific impairment areas of:

- Autism Spectrum
- Disorder
  - Hearing Impairment
  - Intellectual Disability
  - Physical Impairment
  - Speech-Language Impairment
  - Vision Impairment

The EAP supports schools to:

- understand and meet their obligations to make reasonable adjustments for students with disability
- identify students (from Prep-Year 12) who meet criteria for the EAP categories
- report the significant education adjustments that are currently in place to address the educational needs of these students.

Use coping self-talk

Using coping self-talk involves saying things to yourself to calm down. Children can be encouraged to say things to themselves like:

- Take it easy.
- Take some deep breaths.
- Stay cool.
- It's okay if I'm not good at this.
- Chill out.
- Don't let him bug me.
- Time to relax!
- Try not to give up.

To teach children to use coping self-talk, it is helpful to model it yourself. For example, you could make a point of saying out loud, “I need to relax,” “I'm going to cool down,” or “I won't let this get to me.” You can also use coping statements to coach children through stressful moments.

Asking older children what they could say to themselves when they need to cool down their anger helps them learn to use coping self-talk for themselves.

This is best practised before children get angry.

Community Spirit

A great way to get involved, get fit AND raise money for our P&C. Information available…

www.botanictobridge.com.au

❤ Primary Student—$10
❤ Family (2 adults + 3 kids) - $50…

16 August 2015

Registrations close Wednesday 12th August
Week 5 - “Responsible” - Completing your work during class time

At Gladstone West State School, it is important that all students try to complete their work during class time to the best of their ability.

This would:

**LOOK like** - Students staying on task in class and completing their work; Asking for assistance if needed

**SOUND like** - “Have you completed and checked all of your work?”; Quiet after the teacher’s instructions have been delivered; only questions if clarification is needed

Volunteers Needed

As term 3 has commenced we are in need of some more volunteers to help in the Tuckshop. 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.

Please note that our Uniform Shop will only be taking Cash for the next 2-4 weeks while we are awaiting another EFTPOS machine.

SWPBS: Completing work in class time.

Attendance Data

For the Week 3–7 August 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall attendance: 89.7%</th>
<th>EQ Goal: 95%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Day: Tuesday—91.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worst Day: Thursday—87.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best attenders: Year 6—95.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowest attenders: Year 1—77.2%</td>
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</tbody>
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Eisteddfod Dates

- Instrumental—Thursday 3rd September
- Singing Choirs—Tuesday 8th September
- Mime & Improv—Monday 14th September
- Speaking Choir—Year 3&4 Tuesday 15th September

There will be NO Cheerleading this Friday as Mrs O is away.

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

Parents that have children riding their bikes or scooters to school, please make sure your children are walking their bikes when crossing the roads, and that they are wearing helmets.
Invoices were sent home for Year 4 camp. Two invoices have been sent home. Invoice 1 has optional activities available.

Payment is due by Friday 2nd September.

26th—28th October—4A & 4E
2nd—4th November—4B & 4D
4th—6th November—4C

Parents should you wish to negotiate a payment plan please contact our BSM, Kylie Richards, please note that you are most welcome to make payments to the office prior to the camps.

Any further queries with payments please contact the office on 49797333.
Woolworths Earn & Learn is back and it is now easier than ever to earn valuable resources for our school. Last year more than 14,500 schools and Early Learning Centres benefited from the program, boosting supplies in classrooms, libraries, music rooms, gymnasiums and science labs.

**It's simple to participate.** From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September 2015, when you shop at Woolworths you can collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers from the checkout operator or through an online order and place them on a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet. There’ll be one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco, and gift cards). Once completed, simply place the Sticker Sheet in the Collection Box, either at your local school or at our local Woolworths.

Sticker sheets are available from the School Office

You can then redeem your Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers for valuable education resources for your local school or Early Learning Centre.

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**Fathers day is fast approaching, our P & C will be holding a fathers day stall the week prior to Fathers Day on the 6th September. Over the next couple of weeks students will be able to have a walk through to see what is available.**
School Notices

What is BPOINT?

BPOINT is a secure card payment collection portal provided by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). Parents can make payments on school invoices from their homes and offices or from their smartphones. BPOINT is the preferred payment method for the department due to the efficiencies that automated receipting brings to schools. Please find below information on how to use BPOINT when paying invoices from the school.

1. Online System | Pay School Invoices
   - Pay School Invoices
     - (SRS; Text Book Fees; Camps; etc.)
   - Access via ANY Computer or Smart Phone

2. Payments Accepted:
   - MasterCard | VISA

3. Secure Payment Method

PARENTS

Easy to Use Interface
Library

Thanks to everyone that helped in the book fair last week and to all the parents, students and teachers who purchased books. It was a great week and we raised just under $3000 to purchase new books for our library.

Thank You!

Come in to the office and see the fabulous Book Week Display we have in the foyer.

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

Community Notices

Women’s Health Centre are selling tickets to the Moscow Circus for a Special price of $20.00 for their show on the 27th August ONLY.

LIMITED TICKETS ONLY
Community Notices

Softball Batter Up
Softball Batter Up is a fun, game-based development program
Where:
Wednesday Afternoons 4.30pm – 5.30pm starting August 12th
3 week program
Gladstone Softball Fields, Memorial Park Hanson Rd
More Munro
$35 inclusive of all Softball activities and a pack containing Softball glove, ball and backpack.
Ages 4 to 12 Welcome
Register at www.softballbatterup.com.au
For more information contact Shani on 0407 778652 (After 5pm) or E-mail softball.gladstone@net.com

2015 Music in the Mountains

Friday 28th August
0.00pm - Welcome and warm up the atmosphere
6.00pm - Dance music with Jack Viljema & special guest
King Tassma from Rockhampton

Saturday 29th August
9.30am - Fun activities for the whole family with Dennis & Gladstone Artists
11.00am - Music the universal language with King Tassma
12.30pm - Combined lunch
1.00pm - Visit to the animals
3.00pm - A short walk with a difference
4.00pm - Relaxing music
6.00pm - Family Functions. Music by Ron & Nancy Bake, Joan McCas, Vera Walker, Jack Viljema & Ron Brown, Plus Mystery Entertainers
TICKET AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE (in aid of the canoe club)

Sunday 30th August
9.00am - Sunrise on the Mountain - Photography Workshop plus sunrise
9.30am - Fun & Games for the whole family
10.00am - Horse Riding
11.00am - Special Feature with Mark Turner
12noon- Lunch Time
1.30pm - Horse Riding, Archery & Ramu Road Round

Bring the Family, come camp or visit for the day.
Donations in aid of the Boyne Valley Canoe Club are welcome!

Harmony Farm - Pritzmans Rd, Ubobo
Please Contact: Dennis & Betty Martin
4974 1267 or 0429 741 267
This is a Drug and Alcohol FREE Event

Celebrate the launch of
Andy Griffith's & Terry Denton's
The 66-STOREY TREEHOUSE
4.00 - 5.30 pm
Wednesday 12th August
at
Gladstone City Library

RSVP: Ph 49765400 or
library@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

Games
Cake
Books
for sale

Please note: Andy Griffiths will not be at this event, as he will be performing his official launch in Melbourne that day.