Your child may not go on to become a famous musician, actor, dancer, filmmaker or artist. But by nurturing the artist in your child you can help them grow up able to think for themselves, problem solve and work out different ways to do things. They’ll also be better able to see different points of view, communicate and express their feelings in different ways.

Here are some top tips:

**Stimulate your child’s senses** - Provide opportunities for your child to experience different sights, smells, sensations and sounds. These sensory activities are food for the brain.

**Don’t overschedule your child** - Resist the temptation to overcrowd your child with organised activities in an attempt to nurture their creativity. Allow them time to be alone, to daydream and to think.

**Encourage experimentation and exploration** - A cardboard box has limitless potential. Provide materials and objects that encourage your child to explore ideas, experiment, imagine, play and perform.

**Encourage difference** - Artists and performers respond to the world in many different ways. Move outside your own comfort zone and introduce your child to different kinds and styles of art, music, drama and dance.

**Encourage hard work and perseverance** - Show appreciation for your child’s efforts and suppress the impulse to complete tasks for your child.

**Learn from mistakes and learn to take risks** - Whether things go well or not, try asking your child these questions: “What worked?”, “What didn’t work?”, “What did you do well or what are you pleased with?”, “What would you like to work on?” and “How can I help?”

---

**From the Principal**

We have been working on our Strategic Plan for 2016–2019…

Using the recommendations from the whole-school review, we have been framing the priorities for our school for the next 4 years.

Our staff have been working together for the last couple of months to take all the hopes and aspirations for our kids and mould them into focussed and explicit areas for improving.

**Improving** doesn’t mean something is ‘bad’ simply that we can always improve…as a school we can improve too.

What is great about GWSS is that we have a rich and successful basis to build on…as a school community we are blessed to have such an amazing tradition of high performance as our foundation.

We have started asking parents for their opinions about our priorities…our student leaders have been distributing surveys at each of our assemblies…and collecting them too!

We will survey onto SkoolBag—we would love to know what you think about the focus and direction the school is working towards.

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**Upcoming Date Claimers**

- 19th October—Pupil Free Day
- 9th—13th October—Book Fair Week
Overdue Library Books

Overdue notices went home to families last Friday. If your child/ren has an overdue library book please return ASAP. Letters and invoices will be sent home at the end of this week.

Health & Well-Being: Sun Safe

In Brisbane in summer at midday, 8 minutes of unprotected sun exposure is enough to induce skin damage that increases the risk of skin cancer.

In summer before 10am and after 3pm, when UVR is less intense, damage can occur in as little as 12 minutes.

An SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen should always be used. Sunscreen should be used in conjunction with natural protection (hats, clothing, sunglasses and shade).

Community Spirit: Camping Survey

Every school is required to deliver curriculum: we can enrich learning through well-considered and relevant excursions and camps. If we don’t have most of our students attending a camp, we can’t deliver curriculum effectively to the group of students as a whole.

The Australian Curriculum is the entitlement of ALL Australian kids: any camp or excursion that can’t be accessed by all students, is discriminatory and can’t be undertaken.

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Student Absences

Parents may report an absence in the following ways.

* Student Absence Line - 49797366
* Note to Class Teacher
* Absentee form through the Skoolbag App.

Please note that ALL absences need to be explained.

Brekkky Club will continue in TERM 4 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Mornings at the SEP Unit, commencing from 7.45am.

Sunscreens which are marked as being broad spectrum provide protection from both UVA and UVB rays. Sunscreen should always be reapplied every two hours or more if sweating or swimming. Ensure kids reapply before each lunch break and physical education class.
**Tuckshop/Lunches**

Parents just a reminder that on swimming days could you please not send your child/ren with tuckshop, as the breaks do coincide with the swimming lessons.

**********************

Please make sure your children are bringing their lunch in lunchboxes as we have had a few lunches taken by crows.

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**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.

All sizes are now available in the Polo Shirts.

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**Stop Drop n Go**

Parents can you please remind your children if they are being collected from the stop drop and go zones to make sure they are making their way directly to the area as soon as the bell rings.

Traffic is banking up as children are not at the stop drop n go areas.

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**Attendance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Data</th>
<th>Term 4 Attendance...</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Goal: 95%</td>
<td>Week 1, Term 4 93.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Tuesday 91.5%</td>
<td>♦ Wednesday 92.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ Thursday 94.8%</td>
<td>♦ Friday 96.2%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

A slow start—but a GREAT finish to week 1.

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**Lost Property**

We have a large tub of lost property containing jumpers, hats, waterbottles located at the front office, the following items are in also lost property at the office.

- Cardigan, pencil case, Wallets x 2, Pair of croc shoes, 1 x thong, Handballs x 8, Auskick ball, Book – Enid Blyton, Ice brick, kids reading glasses, hairband, hair clip, water bottles x 2, sunscreen x 2, mouthguard, stuffed toys x 2, 4 x rings, 2 x watches, bike chain, keys, a stud earring and another single earring, bracelets x 4, plastic toys x 5 and a usb.

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Please check if you have lost any of the following items.
Year 5 & 6 End of Year Activities

With 2016 drawing to an end we have a number of activities planned for our year 5 and 6 students. Notes were sent home last week to our Year 6 students in regards to their end of year celebrations. Notes for our Year 5 activities have been sent home today. Permission notes, medical forms and monies are all due in by **Wednesday 18th November**.

♦ Year 5 & 6 students will participate in water games at the school on Monday 30th November. Children need to pack sunsafe clothes for this activity including sunshirt and hat.

**Sport—Spikezone Volleyball**

Last term, West had 30 boys and girls from Years 4—6 play in the inter-school ‘Spikezone’ Volleyball competition at Gladstone State High. This massive event is in its fifth year and includes teams from across the Gladstone region. Our students can be especially proud of the way they conducted themselves on the day—the sportsmanship and behaviour was exemplary. Two teams performed well enough to make it through to their division final, but fell just short at the last hurdle to finish second. Well done to The Year 5 ‘Wizards’ girls and the Year 6 ‘Wasps’ girls on this achievement!

**Swimming**

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<th>Year 1 Swimming Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13/10/2015</td>
<td>Tuesday 24/11/2015</td>
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<td>Thursday 15/10/2015</td>
<td>Thursday 26/11/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16/10/2015</td>
<td>Friday 27/11/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20/10/2015</td>
<td>Tuesday 1/12/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22/10/2015</td>
<td>Thursday 3/12/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27/10/2015</td>
<td>Friday 4/12/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 8/12/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 10/12/2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Please make sure all items of clothing are clearly marked with their name.
2015 TERM CALENDAR

19th October - Pupil Free Day
20th October - P&C Meeting—6.30pm Staff room
14th & 21st October - Prep Open Days—9.30am - 10.30am
24th October - Advanced Life Photo Day
30th October - World Teachers Day
9th—13th November - Book Fair Week
24th November - Year 2 Swimming Commences
27th November - Full School Assembly
30th Nov & 1st December - Year 6 into 7 Orientation Days—TSHS
1st & 2nd December - Year 6 into 7 Orientation Days—GSHs
8th December - Year 5 Movie Morning
8th December - Year 6 Laser Skirmish
9th December - Year 6 Presentation—9.15am—10.30am Assembly
9th December - Year 6 Graduation Dinner—Camelot
9th December - Report Cards Issued
10th December - Year 6 Movie Morning
11th December - Last Day of 2015

2015 TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Wednesday Brenda Lyons 9.00am—11.00am
14th October Helen Whitten 9.00am—2.00pm
Jenny Nielsen 9.00am—2.00pm
Thursday Jenny Nielsen 9.00am—2.00pm
15th October
Friday Maree Offord 9.00am—11.00am
16th October Helen Whitten 9.00am—12.00pm
Lynda Fieldus 9.00am—2.00pm
Monday PUPIL FREE DAY
19th October
Tuesday Sandra Khalu 9.00am—2.00pm
20th October
Wednesday Brenda Lyons 9.00am—11.00am
21st October Tammy Honour 9.00am - 11.00am
Helen Whitten 11.00am—2.00pm

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.
School Notices

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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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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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School Banking were recently advised to recall the Cosmic Light Beam Torch and the Lunar Light Band due to concerns about their safety. The Commonwealth Bank has replaced the Lunar Light Band that was to be available in term 4 with a Frisbee called the Galaxy Glider.

The Commonwealth Bank has also advised rewards that are still in stock and available to be reclaimed. These include items from our 2015 Outer Space range.

- ET DVD
- Intergalactic Rocket
- Invisible Ink Martian Pens

Plus, we have limited stock available from our 2014 Deep Sea Savers range of reward items including:

- Scented Pencils
- Shark Plush Toy Keyring
- Swimming Bag

These items are only available while stocks last.

Simply collect your 10 tokens, include a note along with your tokens in your deposit wallet and advice which reward you would like to receive. The reward should take between 1 and 2 weeks to arrive.

The School Banking Team

Don’t forget Tuesday is banking day!!
School Notices

2016 Senior Shirts
Notices have gone home today to inform parents in year 5 that our students have chosen a design for their senior shirt for their last year of primary school.

The shirts need to be ordered before the end of the year to ensure delivery early in Term 1. If you are wanting to order a senior shirt for the 2016 year. Please fill in the Senior Shirt order form and return it with either full payment or a $20.00 deposit. This needs to be done by Wednesday 18th November, 2015.

Community Notices

Junior Squash Superstar Program (Ages 7 - 16)

- Designed to introduce juniors to squash, through a fun & interactive program. Fun, Fitness, Skills, Achievement levels
- Wednesdays 4 - 5:30p.m. (14th Oct - 9th Dec 2015)
- Advanced Junior Squad Fridays 4 - 5:30pm by invitation
- Coach Richard Williams (Assisted by Junior CQ reps)
- Venue - Gladstone Tennis & Squash (Glenlyon Road)
- Cost $10 per session (Discount for whole term)
- Sessions designed to be fun while progressively developing skills

Please contact Richard Williams
Mob 0407 124636
aytonwilliams@gmail.com