From the Principal

As I am sure you are aware, we had some ‘excitement’ last week when a hoax caller rang in and made a threat to the school.

From the moment this call came through until we were given the all-clear less than an hour later every member of the GWSS school community worked cooperatively and supportively to make sure everyone was safe and calm. The Queensland Police Service was also fantastic, within 10 minutes of reporting the incident 8 officers were at the school, ready to both protect and serve. On behalf of the school, I thank them.

What has struck me over the last few days, is the staff’s total focus on the kids – making light of the evacuation – encouraging classes to compete to improve our ‘time’, making sure students who were worried or anxious were calmed and reassured – games were played as the children sat and waited so patiently.

I realise that many of you are very aware of the work that is done each day for every West Kid P-6. For the parents who came into the office on Friday and complemented Trish and Melissa – thank you…and for the choccies YUM! If you happen to see a member of staff around and about, could I ask that you acknowledge their work? We all tend to talk about our concerns and forget that a ‘thank you’ or ‘well done’ are powerful terms and not heard all that often.

I am off on camp with the Year 6’s – WooHoo! Have a great week,

Margie

2016 Improvement Focus — Writing

Ideas

Good ideas are essential for creating interesting writing. If we have ideas that we are not interested in, or committed to, then it is very difficult for us to write about them and generate a passionate argument or an exciting story.

Often one of the biggest challenges we face when asked to write something is working out what to write about.

So what can we do to get students to come up with ideas and then to develop them? The key is brainstorming. Brainstorming can be done as a whole class, in small groups or individually. The rules for brainstorming are simple: write down every idea that comes to mind or that someone in the group says in a given period of time and you must have a minimum of 10 ideas.

When writing a narrative the students will brainstorm an idea for the story, characters, the problem and an ending and then they select their favourites. If writing persuasively the students brainstorm all the ideas they can think of and then select the ones that they think are the most convincing.

Gradually the amount of time that students are given to brainstorm decreases and the students come up with ideas more quickly. The other benefit of brainstorming is that it allows for students to come up with different ideas. Initially when given a topic most people will come up with similar ideas but when brainstorming the common or simple ideas are written down early and as the student ‘warms up’ their brain they come up with more original and complex ideas. For example, if the students were asked to brainstorm ideas for a story about a plane initially we would see ideas like a plane crash or a holiday somewhere. But when given time to brainstorm students may suggest that the plane could be a lost toy, a present or a remote control plane.

After we have brainstormed ideas the students then select their best ideas and use these to plan their writing. Through planning students are able to map out their ideas in a logical sequence and develop them to create the flow in the story or the argument they want.

Once the students have an outline the actual task of writing is much simpler as the hard work has been done.
Absences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
<th>Proportion of Students at Attendance Category (%)</th>
<th>Attendance Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Name</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>&lt; 85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladstone West State School</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While we are reaching our target of 93% overall attendance. Our <85% attendance is too high. This needs to improve.

Attention Parents,

Please note that we have a large number of unexplained absences already at Gladstone West State School. If your child has been away over the past 6 weeks could you please notify the school either by a letter to your classroom teacher, via the school absence line or via our Skoolbag App. Below is our Student Absence line number:

49797366

Anti-Bullying - National Day of Action—March 18th
2016 TERM CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Annual General Meeting—6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>Port Curtis Netball—(By Selection only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>GWSS Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Free Dress Day—Gold Coin Donation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Easter Bonnet Parade—Prep—Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Full School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>Public Holiday—Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th April</td>
<td>First Day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day—Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th April</td>
<td>Port Curtis Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd May</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th—12th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th May</td>
<td>Prep—Year 2—Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th May</td>
<td>Year 3—6—Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th June</td>
<td>Gladstone Interschool Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th June</td>
<td>Family Fun Night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 TUCKSHOP ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>16th March</td>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>18th March</td>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>22nd March</td>
<td>23rd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>Tammy Honour</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
<td>Maree Offord</td>
<td>Rebekah Gumowski</td>
<td>Manuella Cuda</td>
<td>Brenda Lyons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brenda Lyons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adriana Du Toit</td>
<td>Maree Offord</td>
<td>June Wong</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lynda Fieldus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
<td>9.00am—10.00am</td>
<td>9.00am—11.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
<td>9.00am—12.00pm</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.00am—2.00pm</td>
<td>9.00am—12.00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We’re on the web
www.gladstonewestss.eq.edu.au

www.facebook.com/GladstoneWestStateSchool
Tuckshop

We ask that NO foreign currency be sent in with your child/ren’s tuckshop orders.

SEP News

We have recommenced our Sensory Motor Circuits which is on at the SEP each morning from 8.15-8.45am. This program is designed to improve brain processing efficiency. Each child completes a series of activities to help develop perceptual motor activities that are known to have a significant influence on the development of many school related learning abilities. Most students would prefer to have some structure before school is a safe environment. If you would like your child to participate, please send to the SEP at 8.15am on mornings that suit.

Melanie Pengelly
Head of Special Education Services.

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.

Uniform Shop

OPENING HOURS
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8am—8.50am. Eftpos is available.

We now have in stock all sizes of our polo shirts
4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, Small and Medium.

SWPBS Focus:

This weeks SWPBS is—RESPECTFUL by:
“Not disrupting others”

Sport

Port Curtis Sport—2016 Term 1

* Hockey Trials (Twilight Carnival)- 18 March
* Soccer Trials (Boys & Girls) - 17 March
* GWSS Cross Country - 21 March
* Netball Trials - 21 March (Note that this date has changed)
* Tennis 14 April
* Touch Football 21 April

G.W.S.S Cross Country

Please find below a timetable outline for our upcoming Cross Country.

8.50 am. Bell rings
Teachers bring classes down to the covered basketball courts and place them in their age groups.

9.10 am. Races begin.

Order of events

Prep - 150m
Year 1 - 300m
Year 2 - 500m
Year 3 - 1000m
Year 4 - 1000m
10 years - 2000m
11/12 years - 3000m
Good luck to our 6-a-side– Hockey team who will play in the Primary School Twilight Hockey Carnival on Friday afternoon.

NO Cheerleading on Friday 18 March due to Mrs O attending a school hockey carnival.

G.W.S.S will be having a Free Dress Day next Thursday 24 March. Students will need to bring a gold coin donation, and all proceeds will go towards the Brekky Club which operates at the S.E.P every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

All 2016 PREPS will have the opportunity to receive a Tennis Australia Hot Shots Shirt as part of our Tennis Australia Partnership Program. The students name will be recorded by Tennis Australia, but no personal details are shared. If you DO NOT wish for your child to receive a shirt please notify the office. Our school does receive funding for each child registered.

Parents please note that there will be a Student Card coming home with every student this week. Please make sure all details are correct. If details need to be changed please make changes and send back to your class teacher or the Administration office ASAP.
Library

As we all know Term 1 is nearly coming to an end and this means that all Library books are due back by this Friday 18 March.

Swimming—Yr 2

Our Year 2’s continue their swimming this week. Parents please make sure your child’s items are clearly marked with their name.

- Thursday 17/03/2016
- Tuesday 22/03/2016
- Thursday 24/03/2016

Parent Parking

It has been brought to our attention that parents are parking at the top of the school near Gatcombe Lane over the Yellow Lines, please be aware that this is making it quite dangerous for others that are doing the right thing. As it is already congested up in that area, please be considerate of others.

P&C Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 15th March  Time: 6.30pm

ALL executive positions are open for nomination with the election to be held during the AGM.

Over the last year the P&C has supplied the GWSS community with a great new Sports shed, buddy benches, musical equipment, supporting the community with our Mother’s and Father’s day stall, our Family Fun Night AND much more!

The P&C Association is a positive and constructive organisation – 1 hour a month, some giggles and conversation, and a massive sense of achievement as we work towards an exciting future for our students, our school and our community. We need YOU!

We look forward to working with you,
GWSS P&C Association.

P & C News

2016
Gladstone
West
State
School

School
Vision
School
Charter
School
Values

West Kid P-6

Know the Child – Grow the Child

Library
Swimming—Yr 2
Parent Parking

As we all know Term 1 is nearly coming to an end and this means that all Library books are due back by this Friday 18 March.

Our Year 2’s continue their swimming this week. Parents please make sure your child’s items are clearly marked with their name.

- Thursday 17/03/2016
- Tuesday 22/03/2016
- Thursday 24/03/2016

P&C Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 15th March  Time: 6.30pm

ALL executive positions are open for nomination with the election to be held during the AGM.

Over the last year the P&C has supplied the GWSS community with a great new Sports shed, buddy benches, musical equipment, supporting the community with our Mother’s and Father’s day stall, our Family Fun Night AND much more!

The P&C Association is a positive and constructive organisation – 1 hour a month, some giggles and conversation, and a massive sense of achievement as we work towards an exciting future for our students, our school and our community. We need YOU!

We look forward to working with you,
GWSS P&C Association.

P & C News

2016
Gladstone
West
State
School

School
Vision
School
Charter
School
Values

West Kid P-6

Know the Child – Grow the Child

Library
Swimming—Yr 2
Parent Parking

As we all know Term 1 is nearly coming to an end and this means that all Library books are due back by this Friday 18 March.

Our Year 2’s continue their swimming this week. Parents please make sure your child’s items are clearly marked with their name.

- Thursday 17/03/2016
- Tuesday 22/03/2016
- Thursday 24/03/2016

P&C Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 15th March  Time: 6.30pm

ALL executive positions are open for nomination with the election to be held during the AGM.

Over the last year the P&C has supplied the GWSS community with a great new Sports shed, buddy benches, musical equipment, supporting the community with our Mother’s and Father’s day stall, our Family Fun Night AND much more!

The P&C Association is a positive and constructive organisation – 1 hour a month, some giggles and conversation, and a massive sense of achievement as we work towards an exciting future for our students, our school and our community. We need YOU!

We look forward to working with you,
GWSS P&C Association.
ICAS Competitions

Information for the upcoming UNSW ICAS competitions went home recently 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>

Family Fun Night—50th Year Celebrations

**Save the Date**

**Friday 17 June 2016**

Gladstone West State School together with the P & C Association will again be holding our Annual Family Fun Night. This year will also see a joint celebration with the school turning 50 years. Please put this date in your calendar as it will be a very special milestone for Gladstone West State School.
Community Notices

The fifty fourth annual
GLADSTONE HARBOUR FESTIVAL
WEDNESDAY 23 - SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2016

GET INVOLVED

REGISTER NOW! www.gladstonefestival.com | 07 4972 5111

congratulations on participating in your vicinity centre Aussie Hoops sporting schools program.
We invite you to continue your path towards being the next Bruce or Iga by joining your local
vicinity centre Aussie Hoops program, which is assisted by Basketball Australia and basketball queensland.

Aussie Hoops Centre: Gladstone Basketball Association
Program Name: Vicinity Centre Aussie Hoops
Time: Wednesday 23rd March 11 am - 12 noon
Venue: Gladstone Varsity College
Price: New - $25, Returning - $20
Contact: Ray Cooper raycoop44@hotmail.com

Registering is easy! Visit www.aussiehoops.com.au and enter your postcode and search for programs.
No need to book, register now!

When joining a Vicinity Centre Aussie Hoops program, each new participant receives the Aussie Hoops participant pack:
- Spalding Size-7 Aussie Hoops basketball
- FREE Sport Aussie Hoops reversible singlet
- FREE Sport Aussie Hoops backpack

Lucky Door Prize: NCP W8 Scooter

Popcorn Drinks
Sausage Sizzle
Fairly Floss
Available for Purchase

Entry: Gold Coin Donation
Supporting the Pyjama Foundation

Gladstone’s
BIGGEST
Easter Egg Hunt

FRIDAY 25 MARCH 2016
3PM - 5PM // ALF O’ROURK DRIVE
SPINNAKER PARK

Lucky Door Prize: NCP W8 Scooter
Get your whole family active and eating well

The PEACH™ (Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health) program is NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS for groups running in school term 2.

Enrolments closing soon - Groups commencing the week of 18 April.

The program is FREE for families with a primary-school aged child and is run in the local community within a school term and after school hours.

The program covers:

**Nutrition** – lunchbox and snack ideas, reading labels and ingredients, dealing with fussy eaters, making healthier takeaway choices, making healthy eating affordable and tips on planning ahead.

**Physical activity** – the benefits of exercise, how to be more active as a family, physical activity recommendations for children, how to reduce screen time and help with setting goals.

**Parenting** – setting boundaries, planning for change, managing resistance to change, role modelling and how to be balanced and consistent.

**Family focus** – the program recognises that each family is different and so our facilitators work with individuals to come up with a plan that suits them.

Kids love the PEACH™ program as it helps build their confidence and make new friends. It is run by trained PEACH™ facilitators and aims to help the whole family lead healthier lives.

The PEACH™ program is run by the Queensland University of Technology and funded by the Queensland Government.

The program will only be available in term 2, 2016 so register now.

**LAST OPPORTUNITY to access the FREE program - don’t delay! Ask us about PEACH™ Online.**

Community Notices

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Parish wishes to advise that enrolment forms for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, are now available from the Parish Office at 38 Herbert Street.