In Focus: 21st Century Learning

Parameter #1: having shared beliefs and understandings

♦ all students can learn;
♦ all teachers can teach;
♦ the importance of having high expectations; and,
♦ having leaders and teachers be able to articulate why they do what they do that is, highlighting the importance of Literacy as the essential skill, our core business in education and the driving force that ties us all together in our improvement work.

...21st Century Learners are synonymous with our Literate Graduates – and that includes Mathematically Literate Graduates.

Empowered by all forms of Technology, our Literate Graduates must be able to:

☐ write with purpose and clarity,
☐ communicate effectively using a variety of text forms,
☐ read for purpose and pleasure,
☐ think critically,
☐ locate and access information from a variety of sources,
☐ use oral communication appropriate to purpose and audience, “read” and interpret multiple text forms,
☐ articulate a point of view,
☐ question and respond using higher-order thinking skills, and,
☐ problem solve.

From the Principal

When students develop learning goals and intentions with their teacher, they accept shared responsibility for their learning—they understand what they know and can do.

With the guidance of their teacher, the student identifies the ‘next step’ in their learning—what they want to achieve and how to implement their goal. There are 5 simple, but effective questions that help students understand how they contribute to and take responsibility for their learning.

1. What are you learning?
2. How are you doing?
3. How do you know?
4. How can you improve?
5. Where do you go for help?

Parents can ask these questions too... a great way to have a conversation about your child’s learning journey.

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Upcoming Date Claimers

- 18th March—Parent Teacher Interviews commence
- 23rd March—Book Fair
- 27th March—Full School Assembly
- 31st March—Cross Country
As much as I look forward to cooking chippies at our annual Family Fun Night, it is not the ‘cooking’ that is important—but the relationships that are built and strengthened every year, when the community comes together for no other reasons than to celebrate tradition, support the school and share a few hours of “family fun”.

My philosophy of education is based on three key elements…

◆ It’s about the kids
◆ It’s about the kids
◆ It’s about the kids

…three different elements because there are different but related lenses, in which the students are the centre.

1. Relationships—the students need to trust that we have their best interests at heart, that they are valued, cared for and important. If you want respect—earn it.

2. Learning—the students have the right to learn; to be engaged with and involved in their learning; they have the right to expect learning experiences that are relevant to their present and to their future; they have the right to learning opportunities that build on their skills and abilities, at whatever level that is

3. Teaching—quality teaching practices, based on research, ensuring all students are welcome in the process.

I have been teaching since 1990, working as high school science/ math teacher, Head of Department, Principal and Deputy Principal.

I was State Panel Chair of Senior Multi strand Science for 5 years until the subject ‘wound-up’ and have also been Vice-President of Queensland Volleyball for 8 years.

Like everyone, my crystal ball, the one I protect and hold carefully, is my family.

What makes a difference?

- The Relationships!
- Learning goals
- Lesson Intent
- Success Criteria
- Evidence based teaching & learning
- Shared responsibility
- Targeted feedback
- Professional practice

Terry Rudder

Health & Well-Being

Keeping hydrated

Angie, Lucia, Rocio and Clara Perez
Our family came to Gladstone in August last year. We like being here in Australia, but we all miss our friends—sometimes we send emails to our friends, but not too often.

In Spain our school is smaller and fits inside 1 building—we do not have the lots of buildings that Gladstone West has. The playground is concrete but we also have basketball courts to play on.

The school year starts in September and goes until June. Another difference is that the school day is longer here in Australia than it is in Spain, although we have to do more homework in Spain.

It was hard getting used to everyone speaking another language—getting used to not understanding everything was frustrating.

We really like the play areas around this school, and going on camp last year was fun too.
**Tuckshop**

**Special**

**Fish Burgers**

**$3.50**

*Only Australian money will be accepted at the tuckshop*

**Uniform Shop**

Uniform shop is open every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8am—9am.

**P&C**

P & C AGM is on Tonight. All Welcome in the staffroom for a 6.30 start.  **17 March: AGM**

The P&C raises in excess of $30 000 each year, with the tireless support of our fantastic ‘West community’.

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!

**SWPBS**

**Week 8:** Respectful: Listening to others when they are speaking.

- respect, friendship
- attention, interest, including everyone

**Looks Like:**

- Eyes on the speaker
- Respectful body language ie: nodding
- Paying attention

**Sounds Like:**

- conversation, sharing, learning, discussing, collaboration

**Supportive, Interested Curious Happy Worthwhile**

- Asking questions if need
- Complimenting
- Agreeing

**Attendance**

Absence data: the year so far

Total Attendance—**94.7%** (so close!)

Absence reasons: Entire Days...

- Holidays: 167
- Illness: 341
- Other: 249
- Unexplained: 272

TOTAL 1029

**Sports/Music**

**31 March: GWSS Cross Country**

**Library**

****Book Fair****

23 March—26 March. WooHoo!!

Thank you to all the ladies that volunteered in the library over the last few weeks helping with covering books.

All Library Books are due back **TOMORROW** Wednesday 18th March.
**Book Fair**

Next Monday 23rd March our Book Fair commences, it will continue through till Thursday.

Opening before school from 8.00am to 8.50am and after school between 3.00pm to 3.30pm.

Students in years 3-6 can purchase books through 1st break only.

Eftpos available ONLY on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons.
School Photos

IF YOU MISSED OUT ON ORDERING YOUR CHILD’S CLASS PHOTO YOU CAN CONTACT ADVANCE LIFE ON

1300 728 972
*a late fee will apply.

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.

Sporting News

CONGRATULATIONS

Last Friday a number of our West boys trialled in the Port Curtis Rugby League Trials. A congratulation goes to Max Patullo who was named in the U12’s Rugby League Port Curtis Team. Well done Max!

Yesterday Gladstone West was represented well in the Port Curtis Basketball Trials. We were very luck to have six Westies selected in the Girls and Boys U12’s Port Curtis Basketball Teams.

Pictured are Matthew Willard, Alex Mercer, Zoe Larkins, Angela Perez, Lucia Perez and Lennox Evans.
Horse Sports

On Saturday 21 March, the Silver Spurs Club will be conducting a Horse Sports afternoon at the Mt Larcom Showgrounds.

Commencing at 3pm, there is an hour of tuition, followed by competitive events and a Feature Event.

Prizes are presented for High Point winners in the age groups of Leadline, Junior Youth, Senior Youth and Adult.

Nomination is $10 which covers all events. BBQ Dinner $10.

Please nominate to Jenny Grother on 0409 75 11 58.

Interdenominational Creation Event

When: 3pm Saturday 28th March
Place: Canoe & Sailing Club site—Western side of Lake Awoonga, just north of the Boynedale Bush Camp, Monto Road
Followed by a “Nature Study Walk” or a “Nature Canoes Paddle”
Speaker: King Tshume
For more information contact: Betty or Dennis Martin on 49741267 or 0429741267