In Focus: developing problem solving skills

1. Identify the Problem
This step can be difficult as children do not always have the words to tell you how they feel or know exactly what the problem is. Finding a quiet space where your child feels comfortable and relaxed may help them to start talking about it. Your child will benefit from your help in trying to understand what might be happening, particularly when they are having difficulty identifying the problem. Remember to step back and not jump in to solving the problems for your child at this stage.

2. Find solutions and try them out
Once you have a better sense of what the problem is, you may like to generate some solutions with your child. Brainstorming two or three solutions is a good place to start as any more may seem overwhelming for a young child. They may not yet be able to generate their own solutions, but you can encourage their thinking with questions such as “what do you think you/we could do?” With practice and support from others, your child will gradually be able to come up with more of their own solutions. Once you and your child have identified some options, you can decide together which one to try first. Work out a plan for how they will try out their solution. Do they need support from you, another child or a teacher? When will they get a chance to try it out?

3. Check in: how did it go?
Once your child has tried the solution, check in with your child as soon as possible. Did it work? If not, why not? What could your child try next? Remember to give your child lots of support and encouragement if the solution didn’t work out. Sometimes we have the right solution, but need to practise it many times. Other times, we may need to return to step one to see if the issue was correctly identified.

From the Principal

Term 4 is a strange beast—it is the time where everything is “coming together” - the hard work put in by both the students and the teachers is really on show, and the work samples are wonderful evidence of the fantastic learning that has been occurring.

It is also the time when we, necessarily, start planning for the ‘new’ year...and while we know some details that will be part of that year, there are many things that can’t be planned for, although we do try to find ways to manage all that newness!

It is at this time that I am grateful for the constants—our continuing staff who help settle in our new staff, our volunteers who do so much for our kids...and of course our amazing students themselves. From time to time, we offer opportunities for parents to ‘learn stuff’ - perhaps about reading, or managing difficult kids (and my 3 were all difficult occasionally!), or helping with homework.

What would you be most interested in? For example...

❤ iPads?
❤ Supporting reading?
❤ Mathematics?

What skills might you be willing to share? For example...

❤ Art or craft
❤ Science

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Upcoming Date Claimers

- 25th November—Volunteers Afternoon Tea
- 27th November—Full School Assembly

https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/starting-school/4-problem-solving
Spotlight

Social and emotional learning

What does social and emotional learning have to do with learning? Research has shown that children’s learning is influenced by a range of social and emotional factors. How well children do at school is affected by things such as:

- how confident children feel about their abilities
- how effectively they are able to manage their own behaviour
- how well they can concentrate and organise themselves
- how effectively they can solve problems
- how positively they are able to get on with teaching staff and with peers
- how effectively they take into account others’ needs
- how well they can understand and accept responsibilities.

Social and emotional learning programs that have been shown through research to improve children’s social and emotional competence are more likely to achieve goals related to improving students’ mental health.

School-wide classroom teaching of social and emotional learning allows staff and students to share a common understanding of what it is all about. Importantly, the emphasis of its teaching needs to be not just on learning about emotions and relationships, but on practical skills that children can apply across a range of situations at school, at home and in the broader community.

Children learn social and emotional skills most effectively when they are also reinforced at home.

Kids Matter have excellent, easy to access resources…

Health & Well-Being: “Healthier Choices For Breakfast”

Community Spirit:

There is a community group that we don’t always celebrate as much as we should—and that group is our staff.

The West staff is a community that is entirely focused on the kids and the school.

Sue & Terry make sure the grounds are beautiful, play equipment is safe and well maintained and they support other staff with various equipment and facilities.

Sue & Terry make sure the grounds are beautiful, play equipment is safe and well maintained and they support other staff with various equipment and facilities.

Kylie, Melissa and Trish manage the office, financial process, first aid and resources...and are always smiling, helpful and supportive.

Our cleaners keep our school in ‘Nanna worthy’ condition—all classrooms clean, bright and inviting.

Our Teacher Aides work across the school—reading groups, classroom support, playground duty and preparing materials.

Our teachers are planning, preparing, delivering and assessing curriculum—and always evaluating the quality of their teaching and the learning of the students.

...and, even more important than all of these skills and qualities! Every single member of the West staff cares about and for your child.
**Tuckshop**

**Hot Chicken Wraps**
$3.50

**Cheese Burgers**
$3.50

**Hamburgers**
$5.00

**Uniform Shop**

**SWPBS Focus: Safe—Entering and exiting classrooms safely**

Week 7: At GWSS, everyone is expected to enter and exit classrooms and teaching spaces carefully—aware that others might also be moving in or out of doorways.

**LOOKS like—**
- Everyone moving through doorways safely
- Waiting until doorways are clear of others before entering or exiting

**SOUNDS like—**
- ‘After you’...
- ‘No, after you, I insist!’

**FEELS like:**
- No-one pushing past others
- Having space to walk through doorways safely

**Attendance**

**Parades**

**PREP - YEAR 2 PARADE**

Week 7 (19 November) parade for Preps - Year 2 will see a special performance.

It's a big secret but very special.

**Full School Assembly**

Next Friday 27 November will be our Full School Assembly. We will see our students being presented with their Bronze, Silver, Gold Certificates and Gold Medallions.

Also the announcement of our Best of West for 2015.
2015 TERM CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24th November</td>
<td>Year 2 Swimming Commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>Volunteers Afternoon Tea—2pm—3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th November</td>
<td>Full School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th Nov &amp; 1st December</td>
<td>Year 6 into 7 Orientation Days—TSHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th November</td>
<td>Year 5 &amp; 6 Water Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st &amp; 2nd December</td>
<td>Year 6 into 7 Orientation Days—GSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th December</td>
<td>Year 5 Movie Morning</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Laser Skirmish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Presentation—9.15am—10.30am Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Dinner—Camelot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th December</td>
<td>Report Cards Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Movie Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th December</td>
<td>Last Day of 2015</td>
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2016 TERM CALENDAR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th— 25th January</td>
<td>Pupil Free Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th January</td>
<td>Prep Students Meet the Teacher 8.30am—10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th January</td>
<td>Public Holiday—Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th January</td>
<td>First Day of Term 1—2016</td>
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</table>

2015 TUCKSHOP ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th November</td>
<td>Tammy Honour, Brenda Lyons</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.00am—1.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th November</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th November</td>
<td>Maree Offord, Lynda Fieldus</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Whitten</td>
<td>9.00am—12.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd November</td>
<td>Maree Offord, Jenny Neilson</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th November</td>
<td>Sandra Khalu</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th November</td>
<td>Bev Smith, Brenda Lyons</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.00am—1.00pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Change of e-mail address

This year’s change to the state school email system has altered the generic email address of each principal. Previously, you could use the.principal@gladstonewestss.eq.edu.au, now you will need to use principal@gladstonewestss.edu.au
Library

All library books should be returned to the library by this Thursday 19 November.

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

Senior Shirt Order

It is a tradition at Gladstone West School that our senior students choose a design for their senior shirt for their last year of primary school.

Forms for this have been sent home with all our year 5 students.

The shirts need to be ordered before the end of the year to ensure delivery early in Term 1. The cost of the shirt is $36.00 each. If you wish to order 1 (or more) senior shirts for your 2016 Year 6 student, please make sure you have completed the form and returned it to the school office with a minimum $20.00 deposit per shirt ordered. Orders need to be received by **Wednesday 18th November** so the bulk ordering to the manufacturers can be made prior to the end of the year.

Year 6 Dinner

This Year our Year 6 Dinner will be held at Gladstone Camelot Motel on Wednesday 6th December. The dinner is at a cost of $25.00 and is made payable to the school office by **Wednesday 18th November**.

Cans of soft drink will be available for purchase on this night for $3.00.

Students are asked to wear smart/neat clothing for the evening which is to start from 7pm to 8.30pm. Students are asked to arrive from 6.30pm.

Graduation Parade

Parents and caregivers are invited to the Year 6 Graduation Parade on Wednesday 9th December commencing at 9.15am where they will be presented with their Graduation Certificates.

**CLASS OF 2015**
Students Departing in 2016

If you have any students that are departing G.W.S.S at the end of 2015, could you please notify the Administration Office as soon as possible, so our 2016 classes can be finalised.

Additional Pupil Free Day in 2016

School will resume on Wednesday 27th January, 2016. Monday the 25th has now been designated as a Pupil Free Day.

Year 5 & 6 Water Games

Year 5 & Year 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 a hat. A sausage sizzle will be provided to all Year 5 & 6 students on this day.

Notes have been sent home to all year 5 & 6 students in regards to this activity.

Year 5 & 6 Movie Days

Our Year 5’s will be having their movie morning on:

* Tuesday 8th December

Our Year 6’s will be having their movie morning on:

* Thursday 10th December.

All forms and money are due by Wednesday 18th November.

School Sport

Capricornia Schools Tennis Challenge

Last weekend 3 teams from Gladstone West travelled to Biloela to compete in the B. I. Tennis Challenge. Our teams exhibited great sportsmanship and took their skills to the next level. Our Orange ball teams finished 3rd (West Wonders) and 4th (West Wizards) from 8 teams, while our Green ball team placed 3rd (West Warriors) from 8 teams. I was extremely proud of all of the West teams as they had to battle with extreme heat (35 degrees) and back to back games but never whinged at all. A BIG Thank You also must go to Mr Rob McBean who helped out with the green team as I did find it a little difficult to be supporting 3 courts at the same time!

Well done and Congratulations to our awesome team.

Mrs O
School Notices

Christmas Raffle
2015

To all our wonderful families that have donated items to our 2015 Christmas Raffle.

The P&C are assisting the school with Buddy Benches, supplies including instruments for the Music room and upgrading our current PA System.

*We thank you for your support with this fundraiser.*

Raffle Tickets have been sent home with the eldest child in each family.

All tickets must be returned (sold/unsold) by

**MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2015.**

**ALL SOLD TICKETS GO INTO THE DRAW TO WIN A BIKE & HELMET DONATED BY KMART GLADSTONE**

All returned tickets go into the draw for a

**X-Mas Stocking and Slip-n-Slide courtesy of the P& C.**

**Christmas Multi-Draw Raffle**

1st Prize: $300 Fishing Rod & Reel
2nd Prize: $200 Coffee Machine
3rd/4th Prize: $150 Kids Hamper
5th/6th Prize: $150 Ladies Hamper
7th Prize: $150 Mens Hamper
8th/9th Prize: $150 Wine & Meal Vouchers
10th Prize: $110 Cath’s Hair Studio Pack
11th Prize: $110 Family pass Return Trip on Curtis Endeavour & Coles Voucher
12th/13th Prize: $150 Xmas Hamper
14th/15th Prize: $150 Xmas Hamper
16th/17th Prize: $150 Xmas Hamper

**Thank you to the following sponsors who have kindly donated towards our Christmas Raffle Hampers:**

Kmart, Star Liquor, Dan Murphys, Diceys, McDonalds, Gladstone Fish Market, Barney Point Butchery, Hogs Breath Café, Ribs & Rumps, Pizza Capers, Curtis Ferry Services, Bunnings, Coles, Coffee Club, Woolworths, Trace of Beauty, Nice Nails & Beauty, Rocksalt, Caths Hair Studio.

*Thank you also to the P&C and our G.W.S.S Families & Staff*
### School Notices

**Student Leaders for 2016**

Congratulations to our newly elected student leaders for 2016.

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<tr>
<th>School Captains</th>
<th>Casey Llewellyn</th>
<th>Matthew Willard</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vice School Captains</td>
<td>Chloe List</td>
<td>Marcus Ford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Sports Captains**

- **Aldorla**
  - Paige Bowra
  - Braiden Heard
- **Coolac**
  - Mia Bell
  - Bella Sills
- **Manooka**
  - Maddison Willis
  - Kade Beamish
- **Warabo**
  - Cody Layt
  - Taj Fleming

**Student Leaders**

- **Felicity Prizeman**
- **Isobella Kermode**
- **Reuben Suter**

All the best to Jenny Hinde who is retiring from Gladstone West State School at the end of 2016. We wish Jenny all the happiness as she travels with her husband John.
Christmas Variety Concert

Sunday 29th November 2015
1pm start
Held at 161 Sun Valley Road, Gladstone
Gold Coin Entry.
Raffle / Tea & Coffee / Softdrinks available
Lots of prizes being given away.
Come along for an afternoon in the Air Conditioned building for a few laughs, singing and live music.

2016 Celebrate Australia Primary School Art Competition

As part of the Gladstone Regional Council’s 2016 Australia Day celebrations, we’re calling on the region’s young artists to help us celebrate “who and what makes Australia great.”

To enter, students must simply draw, paint or collage an aspect of Australia they believe is iconic, on an A4 sized sheet of paper.

There are two sections of entry:
Section 1: 2015 Prep to 2015 Year 2
Section 2: 2015 Year 3 to 2015 Year 6

Entries to be submitted to the GLADSTONE REGIONAL ART GALLERY & MUSEUM
Open: Hours - Terms, Monday to Saturday, 9am to 4pm
Cnr Goondoon & Brannon Sts, Gladstone
PO Box 26, Gladstone Qld 4680
P: 4979 6760 | E: gallery@gladstone.qld.gov.au
W: http://gallerymuseum.gladstone.qld.gov.au

Important Dates
Entries close 4pm, Friday 18 December 2015
Winners announced during Gladstone Regional Council’s Australia Day celebrations, Tuesday 26 January 2016

Exhibition of Entries
Visitors Centre Gallery, Tondoon Botanic Gardens 9 to 21 January 2016
CQUniversity, Gladstone Multi Campus 2 to 28 February 2016
Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum 3 to 30 March 2016
Digital exhibition of entries at selected Gladstone Regional Council offices, venues and libraries January - April 2016