Most calculations that we carry out each day we do in our heads. With some calculations we feel the need to reach for paper and pencil or a calculator. Yet when we play a game of darts or cards or even watch a rugby league game, we rely on carrying out lots of mental calculations.

Travelling, sharing a bill, shopping, playing or watching sport, and even getting dinner ready all involve mental calculations. The methods we use when we work things out in our heads are often not the same methods that we use when we write down an algorithm.

The processes involved in mental calculations have remained a mystery for many kids and even for many adults. Working out 998 x 3 is a hard task, even when using pen and paper if you don’t realise that you can find the answer mentally by subtracting 6 from 3,000.

How kids learn to work maths out in their heads?

Kids begin by counting things they can see and using objects to add and subtract. They begin to think of ways to add and subtract without having to use objects.

One of the early ways in which kids learn to add two numbers in their head is to start with the larger number and count by ones. This is an effective way when adding on small numbers. As children begin to deal with larger numbers they develop a range of ways other than counting by ones.

For example, to find out the answer to 25 + 89, kids could:
- make the 89 up to 90, then add 10 and then 14
- add 20 and 80 to make 100, then add 9 and 5 to make 14, then add 100 and 14
- add 10 twice to 89 and then add 5 more.

One of the interesting things about mental calculations is that people don’t all think the same way.

What can parents do to help their kids work out maths in their head?

- Ask your child how they mentally worked out the answer to a question.
- Explain how you would mentally work out the answer. If your child can’t work out the answer mentally, give them objects to use for counting.
- Ask your child to work out how much change they will get when paying for something at the shops. If your child is saving to buy something, ask how much more money they will need to save to buy it.
- Encourage your child to estimate the cost of two items when shopping.
- If watching a game involving 2 teams, ask your child to work out mentally the difference in the scores.
- Involve your child in working out costs associated with holiday travel. For example, “How much will it cost if we stay five nights and the cost each night is $75?”

From the Principal

The staff has identified a number of priorities that sit within the school’s Strategic Plan and improvement focus for the next 4 years. Many of these priorities are connected and link across areas – which is great!

Regular tracking and monitoring of student progress against the Australian Curriculum.

Students’ goals target the next steps in their literacy and numeracy learning.

Students are provided with work at their level.

Students are provided with a range of opportunities to show what they know and can do.

Students will have multiple opportunities to apply their literacy and numeracy skills to real-life / life-like situations.

Students value what they are learning.

Students are active and engaged participants in their learning.

Students know what they need to do to improve their learning.

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Upcoming Date Claimers

- 9th—13th November—Book Fair Week
- 27th November—Full School Assembly
Survey update...

- Estimated 2016 Year 3-4-5-6 student enrolment = 403
- 129 responses received (paper & eform)
- 117 YES responses received
- 12 NO responses received
- 32% responses received re: 2016 student population
- 29% YES responses
- 3% NO responses
- 68% 2016 student population NOT responded

Questions...
Can parents accompany the camp? Sounds like an easy question to answer...

- We do often need extra adults to come on camp - so YES, it is possible for 2-3 parents to accompany the camp
- In all classes, we usually have 1 or 2 students who have very specific needs (e.g. toileting, intravenous medication, anxiety...) often parents of these students accompany the camp, as general helpers as well as supporting their own child
- Costs for 'teachers and helpers are included in the general camp costs
- Can every parent who might want to attend do so—NO; not just because of costs, but also because sometimes the venues have limited accommodation.

Can camps be 'paid off' on a payment plan or in advance?

- YES—YES—YES—YES—YES—YES if you would like to make payments at any time they are more than welcome and will sit as a credit against your child/ren name.
- We state on every camp form that payment schedules can be arranged with the BSM (Kylie Richards).

Now what?
We are a LONG WAY from being able to confirm camps for 2016. The 2016 camping program will be discussed at Tuesday’s P&C meeting.

Health & Well-Being: “Try for 5” National Nutrition Week

Nutrition Guidelines 1-5...

Guideline 2

Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods from these five groups every day:

- Plenty of vegetables, including different types and colours, and legumes/beans
- Fruit
- Grain (cereal) foods, mostly wholegrain and/or high cereal fibre varieties, such as breads, cereals, rice, pasta, noodles, polenta, couscous, oats, quinoa and barley
- Lean meats and poultry, fish, eggs, tofu, nuts and seeds, and legumes/beans
- Milk, yoghurt, cheese and/or their alternatives, mostly reduced fat (reduced fat milks are not suitable for children under the age of 2 years)

And drink plenty of water.

Access to and storage of vegetables are common barriers to many of us reaching our recommended 5 serves a day. To help you get the longest shelf life from you fresh produce, My Green Australia has created a how-to-store fruit and vegetable guide.

http://www.mygreenaustralia.com/how-to-store-fruit-and-vegetables/

Community Spirit: Camping Survey

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

Brekky Club

Library

Student Absences

Brekky Club

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.

Back to the LIBRARY! PLEASE!

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Now what?
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WOW—WHAT'S ON AT WEST
At GWSS, encouraging others is very important to help everyone achieve their best.

LOOKS like -
People treating one another kindly
Helping peers/friends with their work

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

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.

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.

As the days are warming up, could you please remind your children that on swimming days could you please not send your child/ren with tuckshop, as the breaks do coincide with the swimming lessons.

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2015 TERM CALENDAR

20th October - P&C Meeting—6.30pm Staff room
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
30th November - Year 5 & 6 Water Games
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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Honour</td>
<td>Shannon Natoli</td>
<td>Lynda Fieldus</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
<td>Sandra Khalu</td>
<td>Brenda Lyons</td>
<td>Lynda Fieldus</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
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<td>Brenda Lyons</td>
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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

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.

Janenlle Suter
Fundraising Officer
GWSS P&C Association
0411400018
jodyjanenne@bigpond.com

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.

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

At Gladstone West State School we have high expectations of our students’ behaviour, learning and attendance.

We recognise that the overwhelming majority of our students meet these standards, and that some students go well beyond these standards. They are those students whose behaviour, learning and attendance are outstanding. They are the 5 – 10% of students who truly are the Best of West.

The Best of West award is recognition of those students.

We wanted to share the process we will use in 2015 to identify the amazing children who are the role models we hope other students might aspire to be.

1. Teachers will nominate students from their class who they feel are Best of West. Students MUST meet all of the following criteria to be nominated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold level Green Card behaviour (either certificate or medallion)</td>
<td>“A” standard achievement reported in all learning areas OR “A” for effort in all learning areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No negative behaviour incidents recorded to OneSchool in that year.</td>
<td>95% attendance up to the close of nomination (typically NO MORE THAN 9 DAYS PENALTY ABSENCE through the year)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Students nominated will be presented to all staff for a vote that provides the opportunity to ‘feed back’ about out of class and specialist area behaviours and learning. The vote will be done on the school’s Staff Team Site as a survey. Staff can vote “Yes” to indicate they support the student’s nomination; “No” to indicate they do not support the student’s nomination; or “Don’t Know” if they do not know the student. This vote will be completely anonymous. Where a “No” vote is recorded, a reason by way of explanation will be provided.

1  A student MUST receive 100% support through a “Yes” vote. ANY ‘No’ vote, appropriately substantiated through explanation, will rule the nominee out.

2  Students who are endorsed through the staff vote will be recommended to the Administration team for final approval as ‘Best of West’.

Students who achieve Best of West in 2015 will:

- Be formally recognised on the Term 4 Full School Assembly and presented with a trophy as a memento.
- Be named in the School Newsletter
- Be able to participate in a special whole day activity to celebrate their achievements
- Have their photo included on a special Best of West Honour Roll which will remain displayed for 12 months in the School Library.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss ‘Best of West’, please contact either your child’s teacher, or a member of our Administration team.
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

**Bangarra Dance - A breathtaking theatrical dance experience**

*Bangarra Dance Theatre’s Kinship* tells its story through dance, bringing to the stage movement that communicates and awaken people’s awareness about Aboriginal culture.

Kinship consists of two dance theatre works that celebrate and explore Indigenous culture and perspectives. The works show the contrast between traditional culture’s rich embrace and the issues that manifest through the sense of cultural difference and the threat of cultural loss.

*The Brolga (Gudurrku)*, story is inspired by the totemic systems in the Australian Aboriginal culture and the *Kinship* program investigates being Aboriginal in the 21st century, asking important questions about identity.

The GECC are offering students and teachers an opportunity to enrich cultural learning and understanding with a $20.00, 2 for 1 ticket offer ($10.00 per ticket).

Contact the Box Office on 4972 2822 or visit at 56 Goondoon Street, Gladstone. Alternatively book tickets online at www.gladecc.com.au

8.00pm - Saturday, October 24

Note: Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Contains adult themes.