Signposts towards excellence in education

- Teachers are among the most powerful influences in learning.
- Teachers need to be directive, influential, caring and actively and passionately engaged in the process of teaching and learning.
- Teachers need to be aware of what each and every student in their class is thinking and what they know...so that they can provide meaningful and appropriate feedback such that each student moves progressively through the curriculum levels.
- Teachers and students need to know the learning intentions and the criteria for student success for their lessons. Where is the student going? How is the students going? Where to next?

What makes the MOST difference?
Consider each of these educator research topics; on average, their effect sizes are high (H), medium (M) or low (L). What do you think? Research findings next week!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Influence</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher subject-matter knowledge</td>
<td>H M L</td>
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<td>Providing formative feedback to teachers</td>
<td>H M L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing work examples</td>
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<td>Student expectations</td>
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<td>Within class grouping</td>
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<td>Direct Instruction</td>
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<td>Teacher expectations</td>
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<td>Reducing class size</td>
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<td>Teacher credibility in the eyes of the students</td>
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From the Principal

Last week I listed 5 simple, but effective questions that help students understand how they contribute to and take responsibility for their learning.

How could or should each of these questions be answered by students?

1. What are you learning?
   - “I am learning to discuss and use more descriptive words in my narrative writing.”
   - “I am adding more descriptive words to my writing so the reader knows what I am thinking as an author.”
   - Students would clearly be able to articulate their learning goals and why they are learning them.
   - Students wouldn’t say “I don’t know…”

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- Attendance 3
- Sports/Activities 3
- Library 3

Upcoming Date Claimers

- 23rd – 26th March — Book Fair
- 27th March — Full School Assembly
- 31st March — Cross Country
Hi everyone, I am Kirra Middling and this is my first year at GWSS. I love teaching and I am passionate about making sure my students are learning—as Preppies, my students need lots of hands-on and ‘play’ experiences to help them make sense of the new world of school. The beginning of the year, especially in Prep, is a challenge—the first weeks are busy and are all about setting up and rehearsing our routines and making sure the children understand and engage with the expectations.

My philosophy about teaching is pretty simple, and easy to prioritise...the students are at the core, surrounded by the class—family—school community and of course, the teaching team...sharing responsibility for the students and their success.

I am especially lucky to work with Theresa Duckham, my Teacher Aides—together we work as a team, supporting our students have-a-go with every aspects of our teaching and learning program. For example, little as they are, the students come into class in the morning...play with the puzzles, blocks etc...as soon as the bell goes, they pack up, putting things away quickly and efficiently and then they are sitting on the floor ready for the day. They move from play-time to learning time very easily.

The biggest buzz I get from working with children, is when a student has an “aha” moment—when they drag their mum (or dad) into the room to show them their writing..."I wrote this word" or "I sounded out…”

On the weekend I played video games...very special because I got a move to the end! WooHoo!

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Health & Well-Being

Creating safe, healthy and supportive learning environments is essential to delivering quality educational outcomes for our students.

To create and maintain these environments, our commitment extends to all staff, students and members of the community who use our facilities.

Achieving this requires strong teamwork between all those who interact in our schools.

We need to lead – showing our commitment to health, safety and wellbeing through our actions;

We need to engage – so that we are all involved in health, safety and wellbeing initiatives;

We need to promote – working together to promote safe and healthy learning environments and practices that prevent negative health, safety and wellbeing incidents from occurring;

We need to support – assisting our students to maximise their physical and psychological wellbeing.

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Yallarm Yarning

This week, as part of our whole school assembly, we will be celebrating two important elements of our community.

We will be congratulating those students who have achieved their Bronze Certificates this term. We are very proud of all our students—and we look forward to sharing this mile-stone with them.

The other celebration is the Welcome to Country we will be sharing with our school community.

The traditional owners of the land on which our school now stands will share some traditions and beliefs about earth, water and fire—and how these elements contribute to culture and life-style.

Many of our aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and some of their parents, will acknowledge their ancestors’ traditional lands or clans. They will offer respect and friendship to the traditional owners.

Our school community is diverse—we share a common ‘now, but we also have a collective background that includes many different countries.

We will also acknowledge the many countries our families have identified, by sharing their flags.

And afterwards...a sausage "Sizzle … a gift from the school to its community."

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Student Stars

Over the last couple of weeks—some of our students have identified Personal Learning Goals...AND achieving them!

Tiara Johnson, Bungy Jumping!

It was amazing, five seconds of freedom going down and I felt like King of the World as I gracefully sprung back up into the air. I have to admit, looking down at the other people professionally glide through the air looked fun, but when I was looking where I was going to jump, I was nervous. When I jumped all my worries left me and I could think clearly. All in all I would definitely do it again. (Are you persuaded?)

Reagan Khalu, division...with trading AND fractional representations.

Reagan had a quick lesson and practice session, then 2 days later...a page of self-devised algorithms complete with working out complete and correct.

WooHoo!
**Term 1, Issue 6**

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**Tuckshop**

This week’s special at the tuckshop:

**Fish Burger** made with a piece of Tempura Whiting with lettuce and tartare sauce.

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**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop has now stocked up on our School Jackets in all sizes. Cost of our School Jackets are $38.00. **Please note we are still waiting on our size 6 shirts to arrive.**

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**P&C**

The P&C held their AGM last Tuesday and the following committee was nominated.

President: Ian Watson  
Vice President: Dawn Noakes  
Treasurer: Danielle Welsh  
Secretary: Sharon Breadsell  
Fundraising Co-Ordinator: Janenne Suter

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**SWPBS**

**Week 9**: Responsible everyone playing in the correct area.

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**Attendance**

Absence data: the year so far...  
Total Attendance—94.6% (still close—but a little slip backwards!)

Since the first day of term, 27 January, we have recorded **21 days** at or above our attendance target of 95%. **WooHoo!!**

It does also mean that there have been 18 days when we haven’t met our target...

**BUT...we have recorded 4 days at or over 97%...**
- 27 January—WooHoo!  
- 4 March—WooHoo!  
- 5 March—WooHoo!  
- 10 March—WooHoo!

Zero Heroes—Wednesday, 1 April  
Pizza Party—Highest attendance class  
Thursday, 2 April

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**Sports/Music**

**GWSS Cross Country**

**31st March:**  
Students can wear shirts in their house colours, school shorts are still to be worn.  
Please make sure children bring their school hats, and also bring along your water bottles.

**Cheerleading**

**NO Cheerleading tomorrow**  
Wednesday 25th March, Cheerleading will commence again on Friday afternoon at 3.15pm.

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**Library**

**Book Fair**

Book Fair commenced yesterday 23rd March and will continue through to Thursday 26th March. Book Fair will be open on these days from 8.00-8.50am and 3.00-3.30 pm, with the P&C EFTPOS machine being available for use on Tuesday & Thursday **afternoons only**. Book Fair will also be open at 1st break for sales to students in Years 3-6. Prep—2 students need to be accompanied by an adult when attending Book Fair. All students attending Book Fair after school must be accompanied by an adult.

**Please return overdue Library Books to the Library by this Friday.**

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**Looks Like:**

Students enjoying playing with others about their same age

**Feels Like:**

Being able to have the space to and move around the play area appropriately.

**Term 1 SWPBS Celebration**

Whole-school Assembly... Bronze Certificates
- 27 March, 1.45pm.
Congratulations to the following year 6 students for being nominated as our 2015 Sports Captains.

WARABO
Shivana Saunders & Jacob Brine

MANOOKA
Zoe Larkins & Blaze Barrett

COOLAC
Emma Pearce & Caleb Berthelsen

ALDORLA
Kyla McKim-Hill & Jake Lyle

Easter Bonnet Parade

You’re invited to our annual Prep – 2 parade in the Covered Sports Area on Thursday 2nd April. Our program goes from approximately 9:00am – 9.45am. Parents & community supporters are most welcome. Please sign in upon arrival.

Full School Assembly

Friday 27th March

Please note that this Fridays’ assembly will now take place at 1.45pm to allow enough time for the ‘Welcome to the Country’ Ceremony and to present our students with their Bronze Certificates.

2015 TERM CALENDAR

24th March - Parent Teacher Interviews Continue
31st March - Cross Country
2nd April - Last Day of Term 1
20th April - 1st Day of Term 2

2015 TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Wednesday Tammy Honour 9.00am—10.30am
25th March Helen Whitten 9.00am—2.00pm
Thursday Jenny Neilsen 9.00am—2.00pm
26th March Helen Whitten 9.00am—2.00pm
Friday Lynda Fieldus 9.00am—12.00pm
27th March Maree Offord 9.00am—1.00pm
Sandra Khalu 9.00am—2.00pm
Helen Whitten 9.00am—2.00pm
Monday Maree Offord 9.00am—1.00pm
30th March
Tuesday Melissa Gobbert 9.00am—11.00am
31st March Sandra Khalu 9.00am—2.00pm
Wednesday Tammy Honour 9.00am—11.00am
1st April Brenda Lyons 9.00am—2.00pm
Thursday Shannon Natoli 9.00am—11.00am
2nd April Maree Offord 9.00am—1.00pm
Helen Whitten 9.00am—2.00pm

School Notices
Extended Learning - Student Absences - Brekky Club

Last Wednesday Emily, Arick and Clara attended Calliope State School for a Maths Extending Learning Program. The students had a great time and achieved a 2nd place in the Tower Challenge. Congratulations!

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.

Please note that Brekky Club is on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Mornings at the SEP Unit.

Sporting News

**Port Curtis Tennis**

Last Thursday 4 students from GWSS travelled to Biloela to trial for the Port Curtis Tennis Team. Congratulations to Casey Llewellyn and Bethany Morrissy for successfully being selected to now compete at the Capricornia Trials in Gladstone.

**CQ Sport School Feature—Gladstone West State School Basketball for All**

At Gladstone West State School we are exploring our third sport for the Sporty School Project—a 12 week basketball program with NBL player/coach Derick Rucker. Teachers have received an intensive coach’s course to assist with the program, while Derick visits the school every Monday to work with years 3 and 4 classes. Students will be given the opportunity to play in mini games during half time segments when the local QBL team, Port City Power, play their home games—8 games in total.
SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS COACHING CLINIC

At the GLADSTONE TENNIS AND SQUASH ASSOCIATION COURTS
MONDAY 13th AND TUESDAY 14th APRIL
Total Cost—$45.00 per child

9.00 AM UNTIL 4.00 PM BOTH DAYS
2 FULL DAYS OF TENNIS, FUN & GAMES
PRICE INCLUDES LUNCH & A DRINK
ON TUESDAY

LOADS OF PRIZES TO BE WON

This clinic is presented by:

Further information please phone:
Rob McBean - 0412723608 - 07 49722772
robert.mcbean@bigpond.com

3 DAY CANOE PADDLE ON LAKE CANIA

11-13 April 2015
BOYNE VALLEY CANOE CLUB
Camping on Lake Cania
NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

Cost: non members
adults $30 children $15
members
adults $15 children $7.50

For more information contact:
Blair Smith
4974-1121 or
0413056820
blairsmith31@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook: Boyne Valley Adventure Club

Join in and be a part of the Festival Fun!

Junior Queen Quest
The Junior Queen Quests offer all entrants the chance to build confidence, show off their personalities and gain invaluable experience in a formal judging and presentation ceremony – not to mention have loads of fun, make new friends, and the possibility of winning some awesome prizes!

Santos GLNG & 4CC Talent Quest
Do you have a special talent? Applications are now open for singers, dancers, bands, jugglers and everything in between to take part in the 2015 Santos GLNG & 4CC’s Talent Quest. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners for the Junior and Senior categories will also have an opportunity to take to the stage again with a performance on the Festival Food Court stage on Friday 3rd April.

With over $2,000 in prize money up for grabs, it’s time to get your application form in!

For more information please contact Ali or Jen in the office on 4972 5111 or go to our website, www.gladstonefestival.com/harbourfestival