In Focus: Solving the ‘problem’ of camps

Using the same process identified last week...let’s see how it works!

1. Identify the Problem
There are a number of points-of-view about camps...but there are some ‘must consider’ elements.
- As camps are held during term time—a camp must have broad application to the curriculum
- As a state school, any camp must be accessible by all students

In 2015, 3 of our 5 planned camps didn’t have enough support (minimum requirement of 85% attendance) to undertake the camps.
* Some camp venues require 90% attendance
- Survey data…
  ⇒ Approximately 1/3 returned, and almost entirely supportive of camps not enough to continue camps as planned
  ⇒ Most frequently noted reasons for not supporting camps—
    1. Distance from home
    2. Cost

2. Find solutions and try them out...proposals for 2016
What camps are close to Gladstone and what costs can we reduce...and how?

Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre
- Year 3 and Year 5 camps
  * Year 3 camp, 1 night 2 days: study of the estuarine environment including mangrove forest and brackish lake
  * Year 5 camp, 3 nights, 4 days: study of the fresh/salt water environments, human impact on habitats; leadership challenges and problem solving

PCYC Yeppoon Recreation Camp—Cooee Bay
- Year 4 and Year 6 camps
  * Year 4 camp, 2 nights 3 days: team building activities, local history tour
  * Year 6 camp, 4 nights 5 days: personal goals and challenges, problem solving, team building, beach investigations

3. Check in... what do people think?

We have tentatively booked the Year 3 and Year 5 camps at Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre…
- Year 3: 8-9 September, 12-13 September, 14-15 September
- Year 5: 4-7 October, 10-13 October

We have requested booking information for Year 4 (June or July) & Year 6 camps (late February, March), but these have not been confirmed yet.

Please share your opinion about these suggestions.

From the Principal

Starting school: the early weeks
Your child is likely to need a lot of support when school starts.

Try to drop off your child at school before the bell goes in the morning. Also pick your child up on time. If you’re late it could make your child feel anxious.

Consider limiting after-school activities e.g. swimming lessons for first term & stick to a bedtime routine if you can.
Your child is likely to be very tired after school for the first few weeks. Try to make after-school time special, with a snack & time for the two of you to chat.

Be patient if your child wants to blurt out every detail about school, or clams up completely. Try to be flexible with snacks & meals. Your child will probably be very hungry after school. He/she might want to snack after school & miss normal dinner.
Don’t expect too much too soon. If your child is happy & seems to be enjoying school, that’s a real achievement. The rest will come later.

When you feel your child is coping all right with after-school tiredness, think about setting up a play date with one of his/her new classmates. This helps to strengthen the links between school and home.

If your child doesn’t seem to be settling well, or reports teasing or bullying, speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

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Upcoming Date Claimers
- 27 November—Full School Assembly
Last week we very correctly acknowledged the work done across the school by our very many unsung heroes.

This week I’d like to share with you some features about people we haven’t even met yet—people who will be joining us next year.

One 2016 teacher has already travelled to Gladstone, with her son and grandparents in tow, and visited the school...and she is coming back one more time before the end of term.

Another, who is coming from inter-state, has already enrolled her children at local schools and engaged in several ‘phone interviews’—wanting to make sure she has all the information she needs to be ready for next year...and she is writing reports for the children in her current class!

Yet another is flying up to Gladstone in week 9 to visit the school and meet her co-workers and get a feel for the school.

Two others who are currently staff members of other schools have already contacted the teachers they will be working with in 2016...

While ‘new’ can be scary—we all like to know, to feel comfortable about how things are, or will be, how can we be anything but excited by having such dedicated and committed staff coming to West.

2015 has been a very good year—and 2016 will be even more!!
Week 8: At GWSS, we understand that everyone—students, guests and staff all LOVE to be spoken to in calm, friendly and respectful ways. At GWSS everyone—students, guests and staff make a conscious effort to speak to others in the same way. LOOKS like-

- People smiling at each other
- Students and staff facing each other when they speak together

SOUNDS like- 
- Calm tones
- Welcomes and greetings being exchanged between people across the school

FEELS like: 
- Being safe
- Being welcome—to play, to chat and to participate

Tuckshop

| Hot Chicken Wraps | $3.50 |
| Cheese Burgers   | $3.50 |
| Hamburgers       | $5.00 |

SWPBS Focus: Respectful—using a calm and welcoming voice

Attendance

| Attendance Data |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Term 4 Attendance... |
| School Goal:     | 95%       |
| Year—to—Date    |           |
| Low... less than 85% attendance 9.2% students |
| High...between 95-100% Attendance 68.4% students |
| Zero heroes: Tuesday 8 December |
| Term 4 & Semester 2 Pizza Parties: |
| Thursday 10 December |

Parades

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.

There will be NO Parade for our Prep—Year 2 on Thursday 26 November due to our Full School Assembly on Friday 27 November.
2015 TERM CALENDAR

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

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th—25th January</td>
<td>Pupil Free Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th January</td>
<td>Prep Students Meet the Teacher 8.30am—10.00am</td>
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<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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2015 TUCKSHOP ROSTER

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Worker</th>
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<tr>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>Bev Smith, Brenda Lyons</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th November</td>
<td>Shannon Natoli, Jenny Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th November</td>
<td>Cathy Brown, Maree Offord, Lynda Fieldus, Helen Whitten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th November</td>
<td>Maree Offord, Jenny Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st December</td>
<td>Sandra Khalu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd December</td>
<td>Tammy Honour, Brenda Lyons</td>
</tr>
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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.eq.edu.au
**Book Fair News**

Thank you to everyone who supported Book Fair in any way. We raised $3049 to purchase new resources for the Library. The next Book Fair will be held in March, 2016.

**Library News**

Please keep assisting your child to find their Library Books and return them. There are currently over 150 overdue books. If you cannot find the books, you may be able to buy a new copy (for example, at Big W or Kmart), or you can pay for the book at the school office. Thank you for your assistance.

Freyia and Anne-Marie.

**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

**Music**

**Instrumental Music Reminder**

There is an information session for all students new to the band or strings program tonight (Tuesday 24th) at Clinton State school in the hall. 6:30 start for strings and 7:30 for band. As well as basic information on the program and a chance to get answers, the local music shops will be there with displays and stock.

Continuing students’ parents may also be interested if they are looking at purchases for next year. Students are welcome to attend as well if they wish.

**School Camps**

Just a reminder to parents/caregivers that at Gladstone West State School we have the ability for you to make payments to any of your child/ren upcoming camps/excursions. This amount will sit as a credit on your child/ren account. So when it is time for camp we can then allocate this amount against your child/ren invoice. If you have any queries in regards to this matter please make contact with the Administration office.

**Stop Drop n Go**

A couple of things to be mindful of, for the continued safety of our students...

Firstly, the Stop-Drop-Go areas are very busy each and every afternoon. There are designated ‘stopping’ areas and there are areas that are marked with solid yellow lines. These areas are NOT waiting areas. When parents/caregivers wait in these areas they block the vision of the crossing supervisor – endangering our students. It is frustrating – but drivers who cannot fit in the designated waiting area MUST drive around the block. Every child’s life is worth more than a few minutes of your time. Our neighbours are very understanding – but please consider how difficult it must be for them to access their homes between 2:50-3:20pm every day.

The second reminder is that our Stop-Drop-Go areas at Quoin and Curtis Street have staff on duty at these areas until 3.15pm. If you are later collecting your child from these areas your child will be sent to the office, where they can be then collected from the Boles Street Office Stop-Drop-Go.
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.

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.

School Notices

Gladstone West State School along with Guzman Y Gomez are holding a fundraiser on Saturday 5th December. Flyers have been sent home with every student today. If you would like more flyers to hand out to work colleagues, friends or neighbours, you can collect them from the administration office.
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, Active Physio Health, Chemist Warehouse

*Thank you also to the P&C and our G.W.S.S Families & Staff*
Last weekend the West Warriors Cheerleaders competed in Rockhampton at the GladRock Stunt Fest. They came home with 3 first place trophies and a third placing. After the competition the girls enjoyed a stunting workshop with Rockhampton senior Level 4 teams. Well done to all involved.

Community Notices

Harmony Farm

Horse Riding Adventure

Get outdoors this school holidays!

Join us on an adventure in the beautiful Boyne Valley!

We offer horse riding trials on our kid friendly horses through a track amongst the great outdoors!

Farm Stay Experience

Camp or Book our A Frame House

If you'd like to experience the serenity at Harmony Farm where you can relax, unplug from technology and unwind, you have the choice to camp or stay in our A Frame farm house.

See our website for more details

www.harmonynfarm.org

Over $11,000 in cash and prizes to be won!

54th Gladstone Harbour Festival

Get Involved!

Heading into its 54th year as Gladstone's most loved event, the Gladstone Harbour Festival will once again bring the community a jam-packed program that is sure to entertain, but we need your help. This is your opportunity to get involved and win some great prizes. With over $11,000 worth of cash and prizes up for grabs in 2016 it is time to start thinking about your entry. Expressions of interest are sought for entrants in the Great Raft Race, Queen Quest, Talent Quest, Blessing & Dressing of the Fleet and the much loved Street Parade.

For more information call the office on 4972 5111 or go to www.gladstonefestival.com
Entry forms available online Friday 4, December 2015.