The *curriculum* delivered in all classes at GWSS is how we make sure all the requirements for learning various subjects are provided for our students.

To deliver the *curriculum* effectively, our teachers plan sequences of learning that best support the needs of the children in the class. What goes into the *curriculum* aligns with either (or both!) the Australian Curriculum or the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCARF).

All schools in *Australia* use the Australian Curriculum for *English*, mathematics, science, geography and history.

All schools in *Queensland* use QCARF for the *Arts*, Health & Physical Education and Language Other Than English (LOTE).

**Australian Curriculum** (www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)

The Australian Curriculum sets consistent national standards to improve learning outcomes for all young Australians. It sets out, through content descriptions and achievement standards, what students should be taught and achieve, as they progress through school. It is the base for future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. ACARA develops the Australian Curriculum through rigorous, consultative national processes.

In 2014, Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum is being implemented in all states and territories of Australia. It includes learning areas, general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities that together support 21st century learning.

The Australian Curriculum promotes excellence and equity for all students by providing a challenging curriculum from which rigorous, relevant and engaging learning programs can be developed that address individual learning needs.

At GWSS, we work in ‘terms’ - units of work are the focus for a term.

At GWSS, we track our students’ learning using Literacy & Numeracy Indicators at least every 5 weeks.

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**In Focus: Curriculum**

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**From the Principal**

**School Vision**

Gladstone West State School’s vision focuses on ensuring that every student matters, every day. Our vision is achieved through:

- Positive relationship
- High expectations
- Effective teaching
- Safe and orderly environment

**School Charter**

Gladstone West State School’s charter is based on three imperatives.

- Every student has the right to be liked by their teacher
- Every student has the right to have friends
- Every student has the right to work at their level

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**Upcoming Date Claimers**

- 4 February — 4.30pm Year 3, Year 4 Parent Information Evening
- 5 February—4.30pm Year 5, Year 6 Parent Information Evening
- 6 February—2.00pm Student Leaders’ Assembly presentation
- 11 February—4.30pm Prep—Year 2 Parent Information Evening
**Treatment:**
Treatment should only be applied when live lice are found on the head. To break the cycle, all infested people should be treated at the same time. There are two methods of treatment:
1. Non-insecticidal treatment using the conditioner and combing technique
2. Treatment with synthetic or natural insecticides or other chemicals

There are four groups of treatment agents available in different forms (ie. shampoo, mousse, and lotion) which can be obtained from chemists without prescription. All preparations must be applied strictly according to the manufacturer's instructions. None of them should be used on children under two years of age, except on medical advice.

No chemical treatment kills all the eggs. A second treatment should be applied 7-10 days after the initial treatment to kill the nymphs that have hatched from the eggs remaining from the first treatment.

Do not apply the treatment more than once per week as more frequent applications could lead to scalp problems and have little or no effect.

**Signs and Symptoms:**
Detection of adult lice or nymphs on the scalp is the best way to determine if head lice are present. While most people with head lice will not develop an itch, a small number of people develop an itch due to an allergic reaction to the saliva of the louse. The presence of eggs is not a reliable sign of active head lice. Eggs need the warmth and moisture of the scalp to hatch. Eggs that are further than 1.5cm from the scalp are dead or hatched and do not need to be treated.

**Health & Well-Being**

**Not NITS again!**
(from Queensland Health…)

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**Community Culture (also Yallarm Yarning)**

**Who Are We?**
A community like Gladstone is a wonderful mix of people, who find themselves sharing a location.

Our school is a ‘mini’ version of the city—we have students whose parents attended GWSS…we have new enrolments in 2015 who have come to us from Brisbane, Darwin, Sunshine Coast, Sri Lanka, Mackay…

Our families have roots in many diverse communities—within Australia but from many countries beyond our shores as well.

We also have many Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families—some who have just moved here and others who are members of our local aboriginal clans...the Gurang, Bailai and Gooreng Gooreng people.

We would like to celebrate our diversity, share and develop cultural knowledge of each other. Perhaps share a history, tradition or recipe.

We invite you to let us know about YOU! Each of us individually adds to the whole that is ‘WE’.
**Tuckshop**

The GWSS tuckshop operates every school day.

Our tuckshop convenor is Mrs Kay Castles who works with a wonderful team of volunteers to prepare a large variety of fresh, tasty lunches for our students. Prep, Years 1, 2, 3 order their first or second break items using a ‘paper bag’ order
- 1st break or 2nd break (2 bags if both required)
- Student name, roll class, menu items required, amount enclosed
- The order should be given to teachers before 9.00 am.
- Prep, Year 1, 2 and 3 students can only order chips and ice blocks with second break orders.
- Year 4-6 order their 1st and 2nd break choices as Prep - Year 2, however must personally hand paper bags to the tuckshop before 9.00 am. This will assure them of their choice.
- Year 3—6 Students may purchase from the tuckshop but must realise their choice may be restricted. So alternatively can use the brown paper bag to order. Children will collect orders from Tuckshop via quick serve queue.

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**Uniform Shop**

The P&C Association operates a uniform shop so that uniforms could be purchased directly from a wholesaler and sold to parents with minimal on-costs.

The uniform shop is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week from 8.00 am to 9.00 am. Accepted payment methods are cash, cheque and eftpos. For those who are unable to purchase at these times, a uniform order form (PDF, 29 KB) can be filled out and handed in at the school office. Alternatively, register and log on to the P&C online ordering facility at **School shop online**.

All items available at the uniform shop are in compliance with the current **dress code**. The P&C Association is a hard-working but collaborative group that meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

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**P&C**

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

Funds raised go to support projects across the school—in 2014...
- Shade Shed, Boles Street
- New signage—all access points around the school
- 30 IPad minis to support students on Individual Curriculum Plans

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!

**17 February:** Next P&C Meeting
**17 March:** AGM

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**SWPBS**

**What** is School Wide Positive Behaviour for Schools (SWPBS)?

SWPBS is a research-validated organisational framework which supports explicitly teaching and reinforcing expected student behaviours and actively acknowledging students for demonstrating positive behaviours in the school environment. It regards every part of the school as a teaching and learning environment and every staff member as part of the SWPBS approach.

**Why** have SWPBS?

SWPBS was developed by teachers and is grounded in a research-validated, learning theory of behaviour. SWPBS empowers teachers to support positive student behaviour through explicitly teaching expected school behaviours. Importantly, the SWPBS framework assists schools to identify, adopt and more effectively apply evidence-based practices which build and support positive environments for students’ academic and social success.

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**Attendance**

In 2014 our attendance rate was 92.1%, which was significantly below our target of 95%. What does 95% attendance look like?

- Less than 10 days away in one year—2 school weeks
- Achievable by almost **every student**.
- Student Absence line: 49797366

Typically, a school year is 40 weeks and sick children **should** be at home, but our kids already have 12 weeks **holiday per year**...

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**Sports/Activities**

Information about various sporting competitions and trial dates will be distributed over the next week or so. Swimming information will be sent home very soon—keep an eye out!

We’re trying some ‘new’ sports this year!

**3 February:** Year 3 Swimming
**10 March:** Year 2 Swimming
**31 March:** GWSS Cross Country

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**Library**

There are still overdue books from 2014 please help your child/ren return their overdue books to the Library.

**Book Covering**

There are always books needing covering—if you are able to help out, please contact Mrs S in the library or leave your name & contact number at the office.
Welcome to West!

Not only do we have many students starting at GWSS this week—and not just our beautiful Preppies. (we have some very welcome staff members to welcome as well!)

Prep A: Miss Kirra Middling
Prep B: Mrs Sandra Holley (Mondays)
Year 1 C: Miss Courtney Petzner
Year 2 C: Miss Alyssa Hampson
Year 3 A: Miss Hannah Thams
Year 4 B: Miss Haylee Goldfinch
Year 5 A: Miss Katie Rowland
Year 6 C: Mr Simon Boyles

We are also welcoming...
Mr Shaun Holmes: Head of Curriculum
Mr Michael Cedar: Community Education Counsellor
...and with a change of title...
Master Teacher Mrs Debbie Howlett
Pedagogy Mrs Chris Coleborn
Coach

Special Teachers

HPE/ Margaret-Mary Opstelten
ICT Cliff Daley
LOTE Miae Lim
Music Rebecca Moffit
Oral Jo-Anne Thomas

Language Teacher/ Librarian Freyja Schwarzrock

Houses Mel Pengelly
Teacher Fiona McDonald
Melissa Wicks
Lyn Sumner
Angela Rabjohns

Next week—Our Teacher Aides, Admin staff and non-teaching staff!

Class List

Prep A: Kirra Middling
B: Linda Ramsden, Sandra Holley
C: Judy Treichel
D: Diane Martin
Year 1 A: Helen Morrissey
B: Eliza Morris
C: Courtney Pietzner
D: Rebecca West
Year 2 A: Samantha Colahan
B: Melita Ryland
C: Alyssa Hampson
D: Lauren McMullin
E: Belinda Russell
Year 3 A: Hannah Thams
B: Cherise Scott
C: Melissa Josey
Year 3/4D: Colleen Druett
Year 3/4E: Leanne Pearce
Year 4 A: Pamela Kermode
B: Haylee Goldfinch
C: Jesse Gadschkie
Year 5 A: Katie Rowland
B: Tanya Sly
C: Hope Watson
Year 6 A: Kathy Pickup, Chris Twomey
B: Ryan Grayson
C: Simon Boyles

New Westies—are the Besties!
School Banking

School Banking starts next Tuesday 3rd February. HELPERS REQUIRED—If you would like to volunteer to help do the school banking on Tuesday Mornings could you please contact the school office.

Volunteers

Any parents wanting to volunteer in their child/ren’s classroom or Tuckshop must come down to the office and fill in a new Volunteers form for the 2015 Year.

Medication

Parents/caregivers are reminded that all medication given to students at school must be prescribed by a doctor, a medication form completed and medication stored at reception where it will be administered to students. Parents are asked to ensure a CURRENT green medical authorisation form is completed.

EPIPENS

Please make sure you have replaced any Epipens that may be out of date. These are stored at the office (unless alternative arrangements have been made). A new green form must also be completed for 2015, at the office. Please update any action plans and contact details at the office if needed.

Community Notices

Gladstone Performing Arts Company (GPAC) Youth Theatre Group

The GPAC Youth Theatre group will commence in the 2nd week of Term 1 on Wednesday afternoons from 4:15 to 5:15pm. Activities will include singing, dancing, acting and drama.

For more information or to register your interest in your child attending, please contact Sarah Bobart: 0408728594 or join our group on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/GladstonePerformingArtsCompany/

Wallaby Junior Rugby League

Football Sign-On

Saturday 31st January
10am—2pm
Wallaby Fields

Any Enquires please contact
President Darren: 0418740783

Yaralla Jnr Football Club

Sign On Day

8th Feb – 10am to 2pm
To be held at Yaralla Sports Club top oval
Enquiries please ph Laura on 0400 355 593