In Focus: inspiring imagination

Imagination improves learning

Developing your child’s imagination by encouraging their self-expression, play, even daydreaming, has great benefits to their life.

According to Sir Ken Robinson, an international expert in learning, imagination is the “key driver of creativity and innovation” and helps children to “learn with a greater appetite”.

Simple ways to build your child’s imagination—Andrew Daddo, children’s author

♥ Make up stories together

Making up stories and telling them to the kids is another great way to get your child’s creative juices flowing as well as your own. Andrew says even if you think you’re bad at storytelling it’s a way to combine family time and creativity.

“The most important thing to remember is your kids will love you anyway, so they’re not going to judge you on your bad storytelling – the fact you’re there with them is what they love. They can also help you with the story – ‘Where do you reckon it should go next?’” he says. “It’s giving the child licence to come up with ideas and to be part of the creative process. It makes them feel special – ‘we’re in it together’.”

A favourite game at the Daddo household is to all pile into one bed where Andrew tells a story which includes a word each of his three children has told him secretly, e.g. ‘banana’, ‘clothesline’ and ‘dog’.

Each child has to guess their siblings’ words.

“It’s not outrageously creative or anything but it teaches children listening skills and comprehension … so when it comes to writing their own things at school they’re not scared of telling a story,” Andrew says.

Downtime without the screen time.

Having downtime to play also helps kids to unleash their creativity, he adds. “Not video games or watching a movie but to be able to entertain themselves effectively because it makes them think,” he says.

“If they go into the backyard or into their room they will find something to do every single time if they can entertain themselves they’ve got a friend for life.”

Andrew says building your child’s imagination really comes down to encouraging them to explore the world through their own eyes, and to allow them to think their own thoughts without always correcting them if it’s not realistic.

“It’s having their head filled with ideas.

Kids often say things that are really amazing but wrong, but it’s how they see the world.

Encourage them to do that – let them have a green sky and blue grass for as long as they can because then they’ll realise it’s OK to be a little bit interesting.”

From the Principal

As we celebrate Grandparents Day…

(a new favourite day of mine!)

The Role of Grandparents

According to Arthur Kornhaber, president and founder of the Foundation for Grandparenting there are 11 roles grandparents play in a family.

Ancestor: you are the link to your grandchild’s ancestors.

Buddy: you have the role of a pal, secret confidante, and a “light-hearted conspirator.”

Hero: giving your grandchild someone to model his or her life after and someone to inspire them.

Historian: giving a sense of “we,” solidifying the fact that he/she belongs to a family unit.

Mentor: you are a cheerleader inspiring imagination & dreams, encouraging intellectual growth.

Nurturer: your support provides an emotional safety net for the entire family.

Role Model: your actions can teach your grandchildren how they should behave in society.

Spiritual Guide: teach them to value & achieve spiritual rewards - love, tolerance, compassion, reverence, joy, peace, gentleness, faith and kindness.

Student: you have many valuable lessons to learn about & from them.

Teacher: you have a fantastic opportunity to impart your knowledge, special skills & experience to your grandchildren as their teacher.

Wizard: as a wizard provides your grandson with a playful, imaginative alternative to their task-oriented daily life.

Inside this issue:

Spotlight  2
Health & Well-Being  2
Library  2
Tuck-shop  3
Uniform Shop  3
P&C  3
SWPBS  3
Attendance  3
Sports/Activities  3

Upcoming Date Claimers

• 9th - 13th November—Book Fair Week
• 25th November—Volunteers Afternoon Tea
• 27th November—Full School Assembly
Spotlight

Transitioning to high school

Parents need to be reassured that high school is a very safe and supportive environment. There are many people that students can go to if they are encountering any difficulties socially.

Children going from Year 6 to Year 7 can often be apprehensive about going to high school and what things they’ll face. The transition programs that we have from Year 6 to Year 7 dispel a lot of that because they visit the high school where they can sit in science labs, sit in English blocks meeting with the teachers they’re going to have as part of their daily timetable.

At primary school everything’s sort of done for them and organised for them. Don’t spoon feed kids everything. Let them take responsibility and by the time they get to Year 6 they should be in those routines that you’ve taught them.

In primary school they have all their equipment in a centralised location, which they can go to and access for each subject. In high school students require more equipment than they did in primary school… and all this they have to have organised and cart around with them. Organisation is absolutely critical. The students are coming in to a totally different kind of learning environment. Lots of different classes, lots of different classrooms, lots of different subjects, lots of different teachers.

One of the best things a parent can do to help is know the equipment the child needs for school; in the early days of high school especially, help them pack their bags.

Make sure they’ve got a calculator - make sure they’ve got the materials, their mathematics workbook, their ruler, pens and pencils. Assist their children, it’s keeping on top of their organization… making sure they have a journal, a diary or a planner, preferably on the fridge or somewhere really, really obvious that everyone in the family is going to see – parents and child.

Help them practice a regular routine.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakfast food</th>
<th>Healthier choices</th>
<th>Nutritional value</th>
<th>Handy tips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cereal</td>
<td>High-fibre, wholegrain, wholemeal flake or puffed cereals, porridge (rolled oats), wholewheat breakfast biscuits, untoasted muesli</td>
<td>Contains dietary fibre, carbohydrate, minerals and B vitamins</td>
<td>Avoid toasted muesli because it is usually higher in energy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
At GWSS, “honesty is the best policy” always. So for this week’s goal, is for all of us to be honest with everyone they associate with.

LOOKS like:
- Everyone doing their best work
- Everyone telling the truth

SOUNDS like:
- Admitting your mistakes
- Saying sorry, if necessary

FEELS like:
- Trustworthy
- Proud
- Happy

Week 5: SWPBS Focus Respect—Honesty is the best policy

Year 2 Swimming commences on Tuesday 24th November. Please find below the days and dates.

- Tuesday 24th November
- Thursday 26th November
- Friday 27th November
- Tuesday 1st December
- Thursday 3rd December
- Friday 4th December
- Tuesday 8th December
- Thursday 10th December

Please make sure all your children’s clothing is clearly named.

Year 2 Swimming Uniform Shop Tuckshop

Opening Hours
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays from 8am—9am.

All sizes are now available in our Polo Shirts.

Hamburgers
$5.00

Attendance

Attendance Data
Term 4 Attendance...

School Goal: 95%
26-30 November: 92.6%
- Monday 90.6%
- Tuesday 90.4%
- Wednesday 92.5%
- Thursday 93.3%
- Friday 96.2%

This week, 18.7% of our Kids P-6 attended LESS THAN 85%.

This week 77.9% of our West Kids P-6, attended 95-100%.

Year 2 Excursion

GLADSTONE’S HISTORY

Our Year 2’s will being taking part in an excursion to the Gladstone Art Museum and around the Gladstone area for their History Excursion.

Notes were sent home last week with all year 2 students. The cost of the excursion is $7.00. Permission slips must be returned and payments made by Thursday 12th November.

If you would like further information on this excursion you can access the information on our Skoolbag App or call into the Administration office.

Book Fair
2015 TERM CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th—13th November</td>
<td>Book Fair Week</td>
</tr>
<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>
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<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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<tr>
<td>1st &amp; 2nd December</td>
<td>Year 6 into 7 Orientation Days—GSHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th December</td>
<td>Year 5 Movie Morning</td>
</tr>
<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>
</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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<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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2015 TUCKSHOP ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Roster</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Tammy Honour</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th November</td>
<td>Brenda Lyons</td>
<td>9.00am—10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Shannon Natoli</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th November</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Cathy Brown</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th November</td>
<td>Maree Offord</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lynda Fieldus</td>
<td>9.00am—12.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Whitten</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Jenny Nielsen</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th November</td>
<td>Maree Offord</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sandra Khalu</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th November</td>
<td>Brenda Lyons</td>
<td>9.00am—1.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Whitten</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
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BOOK FAIR NEWS
Book Fair will be held in Week 6 - Monday 9th to Friday 13th November. It is open 8.00am - 8.50am and 3.00pm—3.30pm each day. EFTPOS will be available both mornings and afternoons. Students in Yrs 3-6 may also purchase at first break - 10.30am-10.50am. Please do not send over $20 with children and please ensure their money is safe in a wallet or self-seal bag. If any parents are available to help us serve, count or tidy up any morning or afternoon, please let Library staff know by the end of Week 5. Thank you! We look forward to seeing you at Book Fair. Freyia and Anne-Marie.

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 Notices

Next year marks 50 years at Gladstone West State School. We are asking if any families have any past memorabilia from the last 50 years at G.W.S.S. that they would like to share with the school for our 50 year celebration in 2016.

Christmas Raffle

Thank you
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.

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

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.

Year 6 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 Graduation Certificates.
Sport

The 7-A-Side 3 Pitch Softball Carnival was held on Monday the 2nd of November at Memorial Park Softball Fields Gladstone. A team of 8 mixed West students ranging from ages 10 - 12 attended the carnival with their coach Mrs K. Upon arrival the Wicked West’s soon found out they were severely out qualified – these teams were hard core, but with a motto of “So What, let’s have some fun”, they did. Reuben “the finger” Suter made sure NO-ONE stole second base. Kayde “the Dolphin” Hansen dove hard for first and was safe. Rocio “Rocket” Perez made it home a total of 3 times, and the pitcher Elijah “Striker” Duff made sure he lived up to his name. While the Wicked West’s only won 1 game, they won big in the teamwork, encouragement and improvement stakes. Their coach Mrs K was overwhelmed with pride for her underdog team, and their infectious comradery even managed to rub off on the other teams – especially when Mrs K had to come in to pitch and pleaded not to aim for her face.

Community Notices

Gladstone U12 Development Sessions
BRIFFNEY CREEK JUNIOR FIELDS
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15TH
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29TH
ADVANCED SKILLS TRAINING

» 4.00pm – 5.30pm
» Advanced skills and drills with NRL Development Officer and coaches
» Free
» All players playing in the 2016 U12 competition welcome

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT: ROD DAHL 0448813666

PLAYNRL.COM