In Focus: Visible Learning For Teachers

From last week—what did you think the research would identify as improving learning most?

Consider each of these educational research topics; on average, their effect sizes are high (H), medium (M) or low (L).

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

The next in those 5 ‘simple’ questions—demanding great answers!.

1. How are you doing?
   - “I am able to do the first Success criterion at Level 4.”
   - “I am working on the second and third Success Criteria”

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

   - “Here’s my work that shows that I can do the first Success Criterion.”

Inside this issue:
- Class Spotlight
- Heath & Well-Being
- Community Culture
- Tuck-shop
- Uniform Shop
- P&C
- SWPBS
- Attendance
- Sports/Activities
- Library

Upcoming Date Claimers
- Easter Holidays 3rd April—19th April
- 19th June—Family Fun Night
- 25th June—Under 8’s Day
Assisting your children in writing

As with reading, writing with your children at home is a good exercise to further improve their skills. When writing at home, one key outcome is to ensure that they enjoy and power of writing is maintained. If a student understands this, they are more likely to write. To ‘lighten’ the cognitive load of the task, an idea is to let the student write on unlined paper, with an implement of their choosing, such as a texta, or crayon. This eliminates one blocker to the writing process, staying within the lines, and will allow the flow of ideas and expression.

The below model is only to be used as a guide. If you are writing with your children, and they are experiencing enjoyment, you are making good progress.

### Before Writing
- decide upon an idea
- decide upon a purpose (why)
- decide upon an audience (who)
- generate ideas
- plan

### During Writing
- get our ideas down
- note anything we want to check later
- re-read to ensure our meaning is clear
- receive feedback from parent/sibling

### After Writing
- proofread to check for spelling
- receive feedback
- present or publish
- celebrate our writing to maintain interest

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Health & Well-Being

### Holiday Health Tip

**Wet Day—Play Day**

When we were planning for ways to help Thangool State School recover from the cyclone damage—we had thought we would have a ‘wet day—play day’ theme… but there was another alert for a cyclone on the day, so we didn’t go ahead with that, then. We raised over $900 for Thangool State School—the Principal, students and community were stunned by West’s generosity and very thankful to receive our support. Way to go West!

On Thursday 2nd April, we will be having a Free Dress Day not to raise money, just as part of our Easter activities. Between 11.15am and 1.30pm we will be scheduling the Wet Play activities we had earlier planned.

**WARNING—students might get wet!!**

Please make sure clothing is sun-safe and sun-screen is applied; if your child will be participating in the water-play that they have a dry T-shirt and/or shorts. Just in case!

On behalf of the staff, thank you for a wonderful Term 1, have a great Easter break and we look forward to an amazing Term 2.
**Week 10: Safe** At Gladstone West state school, it is important to ALWAYS keep our hands and feet to ourselves so everyone can feel safe inside and outside of the classroom.

**Looks Like:**
- Students playing safely with one another
- “kind” hands ie: gentle pats on the back; hugs if friend needs one
- Smiles on everyone’s faces

**Sounds Like:**
- Students laughing
- Students having fun together

**Feels Like:**
- Being safe
- Happy
- Respected
- Welcomed

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**Attendance**

Our Term 1 attendance rate is 94.6% very close to our 95% target (or better!). Past data for *Semester 1*:

- **2011:** 92.9%
- **2012:** 92.5%
- **2013:** 92.6%
- **2014:** 92.8%

We are consistent! 2015 looks like our best attendance data for 5 years. Every day is important—sick kids, should stay home; officially the school year is 200 days which means students have **165 days off** they don’t need more.

Zero Heroes—Wednesday, 1 April

Congratulations to 2C—recording 97.72% attendance for Term 1.

**WooHoo!** Pizza party Thursday, 2 April

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**P&C**

**P & C Committee for 2015**

President: Ian Watson

Vice President: Dawn Noakes

Treasurer: Danielle Welsh

Secretary: Sharon Breadsell

Fundraising Co-Ordinator: Janenne Suter

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**Tuckshop**

Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped out in the Tuckshop throughout Term 1.

**Opening Hours**

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8.00am—9.00am

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**Uniform Shop**

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**Library**

Queensland State Schools is offering to support access to an exciting new eBook service for the first 50,000 students and their teachers.

The department is providing an eBook Digital Library (called OverDrive) to encourage a love of reading.

We have registered—so all our fingers are crossed!

http://educationqld.lib.overdrive.com
**Book Fair News**

Many thanks to all who supported Book Fair. We raised $2500 for new books for our library. During the week we had a competition - how many brochures where used to cover the castle walls? The answer was 27. No one got the correct answer, but 5 people were very close - 3 said 26 and 2 said 28. Congratulations go to Tia, Georgia, Alexa, Quentin and Bradley who are pictured with their book prize.

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**2015 TUCKSHOP ROSTER**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Brenda Lyons</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Shannon Natoli</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Maree Offord</td>
<td>9.00am—11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Helen Whitten</td>
<td>9.00am—2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd April</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
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**Have a safe and happy Easter Holidays**

www.facebook.com/GladstoneWestStateSchool

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**Easter Bonnet Parade**

You’re invited to our annual Prep-2 Easter Bonnet Parade in the covered sports area this Thursday 2nd April. Our program goes from approximately 9.00am—9.45am. Parents & community supporters are most welcome to attend.
Enrolments

Prep Enrolments for 2016

Enrolment packages for 2016 will be available from Reception after the Easter School Holidays. Student details will be required when a package is given out. Eligible students for Prep in 2016 must turn five on or before 30 June 2016.

Completed enrolment forms are to be returned to the school office. We need to sight Original Birth Certificates when enrolment forms are returned. Enrolment forms will not be accepted without the Birth Certificate.

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.

Sporting News

CROSS COUNTRY 2015
Mt Larcom Horse Sports

On Saturday 11 April, the Silver Spurs Club will be conducting an Equestrian Beginners’ Clinic at the Mt Larcom Showgrounds.

Commencing at 9am, the day will focus on riding safely and riding well. There will be several instructors who will cover a range of areas.

The cost for the day will be $50, which includes nominations for the Horse Sports in the Afternoon.

If participants are not members of the Silver Spurs Club, they will have to pay $10 membership (to 1 August 2015) or a $15 day fee. This is for insurance.

Commencing at 3pm on that day, there will be a Horse Sports afternoon.

There will be five competitive events and a Feature Event.

Prizes are presented for High Point winners in the age groups of Leadline, Junior Youth, Senior Youth and Adult.

If participants have not attended the Clinic, nomination is $10 which covers all events. BBQ Dinner is $10.

Please nominate to Jenny Grother on 0409 75 11 58.