

Gresford Public School

Newsletter

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Issue 17

28th October, 2010

Principal's Message

Two busy weeks have flown by with the curriculum providing diverse learning and many opportunities for students to achieve.

Student Led Conferences

Everyone has been very busy preparing Portfolios for the Student Led Conferences being held this week in classrooms. I trust parents enjoyed this important sharing time with their child celebrating their learning.

Environment Club

Approximately 25 students are involved in the Environment Club and their main focus is caring for the school hens, maintaining a litter free playground using the tongs, encouraging the correct disposal of rubbish and developing the vegetable garden. A big thanks to Mr Leon Groves who volunteered to assist the gardeners to prepare the garden in readiness for the planting of 'in season' vegetables. On Friday Mr Groves enthused his gardening team and make vast improvements to the veggie patch in a short space of time. Mrs Janelle O'Neill, Manager of the Dungog Chronicle, asked to do a feature on our School Environment Club and completed her story on Friday. Her story with several photos will be published in the Chronicle in November. Mrs O'Neill saw this school club as very special and unique.

Happy Grams

As from this week Happy Grams will be sent to parents of students who make commendable achievements in a variety of areas. Each class teacher will select one student per week in their class who is worthy of this acknowledgement and parents will receive this happy message in the mail. This is a way school can communicate with parents about 'good news'. The Happy Gram is in addition to Assembly Awards such as Merit Awards, Literacy Awards, Values Awards and the numerous certificates that are presented throughout the term. We would appreciate any feedback you would be willing to give us about this new initiative.

Video Conference Debating

The recent debate against Brisbane Waters High School (Yr 7) resulted in a very popular

win for the Gresford team of Courtney Lawrence, Alex Cant, Rowena Dillon and Mia Groves. The topic was that 'Children should not be allowed to watch T.V. on weeknights' and we were the negative. This week on Wednesday, a Stage 2 team challenged Nulkaba Public School on the topic 'That December is the worst month'. This resulted in a wonderful win for the hardworking and enthusiastic team of Emma Hooper, Mia Quirk, Paul Locke and Jesse Farr. Congratulations everyone! Charlie Begg did a great job as Chairperson and thanks to Rhianna Legge-Brown and Thomas Hojer who acted as timekeepers. Our appreciation goes to Mr Allan Begg who adjudicated very capably at short notice. It was wonderful to see so many supportive parents and friends in the audience enjoying the entertaining debate. Today a Year 2/3 team will debate against Cessnock West. Latia Hipwell, Michaela Lawrence, Claire Richardson and Jamie Hickey are all making their debating debut under the watchful eye of Mr Taylor. Good luck to the team!

School Hats

With the warmer weather here it is even more important that every child has a sunsafe hat. Our school policy states that students must play under cover unless they have a sunsafe hat. If you require a new school hat, they are available at the office at a cost of \$8.00.

Shakespearean Festival

It was wonderful to play host to thirty Year 7 students from Rutherford High school this week. Their teacher Mr Thomson, was very impressed with our school and its very pretty setting. Apparently, some great interaction occurred throughout the day, including a hotly contested debate about whether Queen Gertrude should have married her late husband's brother. Incidentally, Gresford emerged the winner of this debate.

News Flash!

Thanks to Mrs Jasper entering our school in a lucky draw with Scholastic Books, we

are now the lucky winners of \$5000 worth of computer equipment. This 'windfall' includes two computer software licences, 10 wireless keyboards, computer 'tablets' for student use and other equipment that will be most useful to our school. Everyone here is incredibly thrilled with this exciting news!

Remembrance Day

On Thursday 11th November, our students will be participating in a Remembrance Day service to be held at the Gresford Cenotaph. This service is being organised by Father Stephen Moore of the Gresford Anglican Church. Our School Captains will lead the service and other senior students will also be involved in the ceremony. Linq Coaches are providing free transport for all students down to, and back from the Cenotaph- special thanks to Linq.

Students are invited to bring in floral contributions on the morning of Thursday 11th November- these flowers will be made into two wreaths to be laid in memory of the fallen.

Parents, friends and families are most welcome to participate in this important ceremony which begins at 10.45am and concludes at 11.15am.

Staff development

Professional development this fortnight has included sessions with M/s Janine Lockhart, DET Maths consultant. Students benefited greatly from the innovative Maths lessons modelled by M/s Lockhart, who will be returning for further sessions in the weeks ahead.

Stay safe and enjoy the Spring weather.

Kind regards,

Beth

"Whether you believe you can do a thing or believe you can't, you are right".

Henry Ford (1863- 1947)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 2nd November - Kindergarten Orientation
 Tuesday 9th November - Kindergarten Orientation
 Tuesday 16th November - Kindergarten Orientation
 Monday 22nd November - Life Education Van visit
 Monday 29th November - Bishops visit
 Thursday 2nd December - Year 6 Dungog High Orientation
 Wednesday 8th December - Year 6 Farewell party
 Thursday 9th December - Parent Helper Morning Tea
 Tuesday 14th December - Presentation Night 6.30pm start
 Wednesday 15th December - Students Last Day

PRESENTATION NIGHT TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

6.30pm start

Wanted

Old hay/ straw suitable for hen's nesting boxes.

Any donations would be most appreciated.

Thank you

From

The Environment Club



Christmas School Appeal

The East Maitland Samaritan's Group is conducting their Christmas Appeal once again. Students are invited to bring in items that would be suitable to add to a Christmas Hamper.

Suggestions would be: Canned food, Christmas decorations, toys, Christmas cake or pudding etc

These items will be given to needy families and will provide additional help with staple foods and Christmas extras. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. N.B. The hamper will be taken to the Samaritans on 26th November.

Gresford Historical Society

The Gresford Historical Society is selling 2011 diaries.
 If you would like to purchase a diary please give Sandi Skaines a call on 4938 9535.

Closing date Approaches

Coles has started a program that will assist schools in purchasing new sporting equipment. All you have to do is spend \$10 in any Coles store to receive a Coles Sports for Schools voucher, then send it into the school. Closing date for this program is Sunday 31st October, 2010.

Please send them in by 8th November.



Values Awards

Jack Hodges
James Jenkins
Kiara Quirk
Claire Lawrence
Jesse Farr
Charlie Hojer
Jono Davies



MERIT AWARDS

K/1 Kayden Atkins
Ryan Skolyszewski

2/3/4 Shakiah Towers-Brown
Rhyse Legge-Brown

4/5/6 Lucy Wright
Neil Urquhart
Saban Bevan



LITERACY AWARD

Colby Davies
Acelyn Towers-Brown
Coogan Brown
Olivia Everett
Riley Atkins
Alysha Cowley
Emily Holz



Library Award

**Amy Skolyszewski
&
Cameron Hipwell**



Week 4 Video Conference Debate

Who: Stage 3 team: Olivia Everett, Gus O'Brien Cavanough, Alexandra Cant & Ella Duncan

When: Wednesday 3rd November

Where: New Library

What: Debate v Jilliby Public School on the topic Homework should be banned.

Gresford is the Negative

Good luck everyone!

Hints for Creating Resilient Families

Resilience is the fine art of being able to bungy jump through life. The pitfalls are still there but it is as if you have an elasticised rope around your middle that helps you to bounce back from hard times.

Promote Belonging

Resilience is the happy knack of being able to bungy jump through the pitfalls of life. It is the strongest antidote we know of for self-harm, depression and drug abuse and it's built on our sense of belonging.

Have some mooch time

We live in a world that suffers from attention deficit disorder. We rush children from activity to activity, from lesson to lesson and from one organised event to another. Then we wonder why, when there is a lull that they say "I'm bored". Be a counter-revolutionary. Find some time each week just to be at home without anything structured happening.

Rediscover some family rituals

It doesn't matter whether it is the family walk after dinner, the Sunday roast, the Friday night pizza or the Saturday morning clean up, rituals are highly protective. The best rituals often cost nothing. These are the activities you hope that later on your children will reminisce and say "Mum always made sure we did." Or Dad always made sure we did."

Spontaneity and curiosity

Spontaneity and curiosity are the building blocks of good mental health. You cannot tell someone how to have better mental health and you can't give it to them by getting them to read a book.

So the really hard message here is that if you want to raise your children to have mentally healthy lives you are going to have to have a good time yourself. If you want your children to succeed you need to show them that success is worth having.

Love kids for their differences

When families function well people are allowed to be different and to be loved for those differences. We all know that children take on different roles. A father of three said "it's as if they have a planning meeting once a year and say 'you be the good kid. I'll be the sick kid and the other one can be the trouble-maker'! And then just when you think you've got it figured out they change roles again".

Having children who are strongly individual and who have a sense of who they are is a sign of good parenting. The problem may, of course be that they will then express their independent spirit in ways that you don't like. The ideal is a mix between someone who preserves their own uniqueness and is able to work with others without becoming dictated to by them. Someone who has their own independent nature but is comfortable enough with themselves to allow inter-dependence.