

Gresford Public School *Newsletter*

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Issue 18

11th November, 2010

Principal's Message

Another busy fortnight passes by once again! Students have been very engaged and have made many excellent achievements in a variety of areas.

Farewell to Jessica McIntyre

There were lots of sad faces in 4/5/6 on Friday last week. This day marked Jessica McIntyre's last day in a 4 week practicum. She became very popular and respected with the students and Mrs Dillon was very impressed with her skill development in teaching over the period. All the best to Jessica as she completes her final teacher training over the next few weeks.

Kindergarten Orientation

The first Kindergarten orientation session was held on Tuesday 2nd November with a second session completed on Tuesday this week. A final session will be held on 16th November. Five students and their families participated in the first session. A special welcome to our prospective new students- Jack Hill, Katharina Lawrence, Hayden Wilson, Liza Kelehear and Mack Davies. All students are settling well and seem to be 'loving the school experience!'

Active After School Sport

We had a visit from the Regional Co-ordinator of Active After School Sport, Ed Figuaro last Friday. He was very impressed with the way the program has been implemented at Gresford this year and funding will be forthcoming for 2011. In fact, so impressed was Ed with the way Active After School Sport runs at our school, that he chose our school as a SUPER SITE nominee (one of two selected) from the many schools in his region implementing AASS programs. This nomination was based on 'best practice' in coordinating and promoting the programs as well as providing healthy afternoon teas. The sports that are tentatively planned for Terms 1 and 2 next year are basketball, tae kwon do and kick boxing. Again, we will have the services of high level coaches in the different fields to share their expertise.

Video Conference Debating

Another successful debate was staged last Wednesday with a strong win for the Gresford team of Olivia Everett, Gus O'Brien-Cavanough, Alex Cant and Ellen Hodges. The team spoke on the topic 'That homework should be banned'. We were the negative. Gus Lawrence did a great job as Chairperson while Thomas Hojer and Paul Locke acted as timekeepers.

Father Stephen Moore gave a very thorough and comprehensive adjudication.

A Stage 2 debate is planned for Thursday 11th November at 1.45pm. Debaters are Jesse Farr, Mia Quirk, Courtney Lawrence and Paul Locke. They will debate the topic 'That shopping is fun' against Tighes Hill Public School. We wish them luck as they prepare industriously for their encounter.

Presentation Night

Organisation is well under way for Presentation Night to be held on Tuesday 14th December at 6.30pm. A big thank you to all the families and businesses who continue to support our school through generously donating prizes, trophies and book vouchers. A special feature of the night will be dancing performances by all classes, facilitated by dance teacher, Lu McQuilliam. Also special guests from Heritage Motor Group & Schloastic International to present sponsorship & media prize.

Afternoon Parking

Please note that safety of students dictates that parents picking up their children in the afternoon are required to park in Glendonbrook Road. From there, parents may either walk through the school grounds to collect their child or wait at the Glendonbrook Road gate, where a staff member will deliver their child. Durham Road is reserved for buses only and as you would be aware, the afternoons are a very busy time with traffic. We do not want to put children's safety at risk- thank you for kindly observing this rule.

Assessment

Students in all classes are involved with ongoing assessment, which together with teacher observations during the year, will provide information for the end of year report. In relation to assessment and reporting, we invite you to fill out the survey which was sent home recently. Additionally we ask that you complete the P.D./ Health/ P.D. survey- the information we gain from you as parents and caregivers, will underpin the directions we take in these two areas and will be detailed in the Annual School Report.

Good for Kids/ Good for Life Feature

Gresford was recently featured in a major publication which circulates electronically and by mail, to around 400 schools. Our

healthy eating program with Crunch and Sip as well as our Nude Food Promotion during Education Week was seen as excellence in student health education. The designers of the Nude Food stickers, Lucy Wright and Beau Redhouse were photographed for the story and are to be commended on their artistic originality.

Peer Mediation

Earlier in the year staff and senior students were trained by the DET Welfare Consultant, M/s Rhonda Cousens in the skill of peer mediation. Some students have expressed a desire to upskill and train further with Mrs Graham in 2 afternoon sessions. These 10 students will now be granted peer mediation status and will be awarded badges at an assembly in the near future. The aim of peer mediation is to allow trained student mediators the opportunity to use their skills, in the presence of a staff member, to resolve certain types of playground conflicts. Congratulations to the peer mediators for showing ambition and initiative- this skill will certainly be a very worthwhile asset as they progress through school and high school.

Cricket Matches

There will be 2 cricket matches at the Gresford Sporting Complex on 15th and 17th November. Players will be competing in the Reg Kelly Shield Competition and Mr Taylor will be organising these matches. We wish our school representatives the best of luck.

Selective High School Applications

There is an opportunity for Year 5 students to apply for entry to selective high schools in 2012. If you would like to obtain further details, information for parents is published on the internet at: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement>

Alternatively, there are application forms which may be picked up from the school office.

Stay safe and enjoy the benefits of the recent beautiful rain.

Kind regards,

Beth

Dates for your Diary

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**

Christmas School Appeal Reminder

Thank you to those students who have already donated Christmas Hamper items.

Please consider donating any items that may be suitable to share with the needy this Christmas

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

N.B. The hamper will be taken to the Samaritans on 26th November.

EFTPOS is now available

for payment of fees and excursions at the front office.



PARENTS



Are you having trouble helping your child get their Learner Driver hours up?

No time, busy life, one car household and where does all that time go.

We hear you and want to help.

The Dungog Shire Community Centre and the Dungog Council Roads & Safety Officer have designed this program to assist eligible Learner Drivers to get their 120 hours of supervised driving, particularly those who are having some difficulty getting the hours.

The program links volunteer driving tutors with L plate drivers. The program focuses on instilling an awareness of safe and responsible driving and giving learners drivers the skill, confidence and practice to become successful and safe drivers on our roads.

For more Information or to offer your support to this program or another inquires please contact Beau at
 Dungog Shire Community Centre

4992 1133 or admin@dins.org.au

11.11.2010

Remembrance Day

Today the whole school attended a Remembrance Service at the Gresford Cenotaph.

Thanks must go to the Linq bus company who provided free transport to and from the cenotaph.

Also a big thank you to Mrs Isaac who made a beautiful arrangement of flowers that were laid.





Values Awards

Jack Hodges
Michaela Lawrence
Mia Groves
Shaelyn Crouch
Kelsey Hawkins
Olivia Everett



MERIT AWARDS

K/1	Henry Hunt Brooklyn Bidner
2/3/4	Sharneakia Nikora Harmon Russell
4/5/6	Gus Lawrence Eric Richardson



LITERACY AWARD

Claire Lawrence
Alex Butler
Jacob Hojer
Jada Laurie
Jake Hipwell
Olivia Hipwell



Library Award

**Clare Richardson
&
Claire Lawrence**



Hints for Creating Resilient Families (continued)

It is clear who is in charge

Families do not work well as democracies. In fact they seem to work best as benevolent dictatorships in which the parent or parents consult a lot with their children but at the end of the day, the parent has the final say.

Some parents fear that if they take charge that they will lose the friendship of their children, but often the reverse is true. In families where parents fail to take their own role seriously, children may feel that to express their independence.

Consistency

Consistency is the ideal. Having parents who agree on rules and standards and who convey the same sorts of messages and who value compassion over coercion, clearly has the best outcome in terms of children's well being. It is also important that parents not be open to manipulation and work together as a team. Life however is not always so simple and we all know from sad and sour experience that parents cannot always be consistent. Sometimes parents have different value systems or can't come to a consistent way to handle particular areas. In these situations, a second possibility is to for one parent to take charge of a particular area. This is not the most desirable solution but it is better than having parents in conflict over management issues or worse, undermining one another. In single parent families or where parents are separated the same principle applies.

Teach the skills of Self-esteem

Families that work well seem to praise one another a lot. Compliments are made, positive efforts are commented on. Optimism is in the air. Even in these families, teenagers still shrug and say, "yea Mum" "yeah Dad" whenever a compliment is made. Teaching the skills of self-praise is useful. One way of doing this to ask questions extensively about any achievement or accomplishment. Asking questions that like "how did you do that?" "How come you did so well at that test?" "What did you do?" and " have you been doing homework behind my back.

Know how to Argue

Families that work well know how to argue. It seems strange to say this because we all have the sense those families that work well don't have conflicts. The family is really where we learn to resolve disputes fairly. The way that parents teach children to resolve differences of opinion with their brothers and sisters provides the basis for sharing, negotiating and problem solving in the world beyond the family. While differences of opinion should be allowed to be expressed, children also need to learn that they will not be able to win at all costs.

Parents are reliably unpredictable

With young children it is important to provide consistency and predictability. This allows them to feel sure of you. After a while though, a bit of predictability can go a long way. To many children, most parents are about as predictable as a washing machine cycle. It is important to have structure and consistency but it also useful to act in way that your children wouldn't expect. This keeps them interested in learning from you or least wondering what you are up to. Perhaps the most important feature of parents in a healthy families is that they realise that all of the above is desirable but not always possible and so they look at how to promote good functioning while not wasting energy on blaming themselves for the times when things don't quite work out as they had planned. www.andrewfuller.com.au

Video Making Workshops

A Video Making Workshop is to be held on 15th, 16th and 17th November at the Newcastle University. Congratulations to Alex Cant and Thomas Hojer who have gained selection to these innovative workshops.